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TO-DAY LOVELY WOMAN MAY PROPOSE.

Beautiful Actresses Tell How to Propose to Bashful Men on Leap-Year Day.

To-day the girl who finds herself in the unhappy position of loving a man, who by reason of an unkind providence is ill-equipped with the courage of nature to declare his affection may by a special dispensation, and without fear of reproach, propose to him.

There are various methods of doing so, directly, indirectly, by suggestion, by kindness, by cruelty, by song, by significant gifts, and by advertisement. Each and all of these methods have their advantages, according to the peculiar disposition of the timorous man, and each girl must therefore decide for herself according to his character.

But as some further aid to these ladies we have sought the opinions and advice of some of the leading actresses upon the question. Many of them smiled with scorn at the thought of such men. "I should let him go," they said; but others again give excellent suggestions for converting a bashful lover into an affianced husband.

I Should Lower the Light.

Miss Edna May smilingly declared she had no experience of any such bashful men. "I really can't imagine myself proposing to any man," she avowed; "but if it were possible to conceive of myself in such a position I think I should do something like this. I should be very nice to him indeed, and then when his emotions had been touched I should lower the lights. Then," she continued, with a smile of amusement, "I should propose in the best way I could. My only hope would be that if he refused me one of us would be able to get out of the room."

Prefer to be an Old Maid.

Miss Ada Reeve, caught just after her new song at the Palace on women, and "I'm one of you, I ought to know," laughed delightedly at the idea. "But I'm married, you know," she said, "and it would be bigamy. I think, anyhow, I'd prefer to be an old maid. No, I don't think I could actually propose to a man. But I would endeavour to induce him to propose to me. I would pay him the nicest attentions and dispel his bashfulness by the most delicate suggestions of my affection, and so make him propose to me."

I'm Fond of You.

Miss Marie Studholme proposes to Mr. George Crossmith, junior, every night in the second act of "The Orchid." "This," she says, "is the only time I have ever proposed to a man, and it is the only way I know." This is how she does it. She sings a song which concerns itself with love, and there comes this refrain:

You're fond of me, I know, and I am fond of you;
What is the only thing for us two to do?
If you do not propose what you mean to do,
I must propose to you.

Lost, a Young Heart.

Miss Gertie Millar, who is also one of the happy quartette in "The Orchid," has a novel way of treating a bashful lover. "Suppose," she says, "his Christian name was Lionel (my favourite name by the way), I would write to him thus: 'Lost, some time ago, a young heart; answers only to the name of Lionel; last seen in the company of a small blind boy who was dressed in a bow and arrow and a sweet smile. As the owner has no further use for it she will be glad to exchange it for one that will answer to the name of Gertie.'"

Feed the Brute.

Miss Hilda Trevelyan, the dainty and clever little lady who has taken Miss Louie Freear's place in "The Chinese Honeymoon," had an excellent plan to suggest, and one which would certainly commend itself to the average man. "I should feed the brute," she said with a smile; "I should give just the nicest dinners possible. Not just one, you know, but several. Then, when he had been accustomed to good living—and men like



This is the day on which woman may usurp man's privilege of proposing marriage. On this page Miss Gertie Millar, whose picture this is, tells how she would propose to the man of her heart, if she were not Mrs. Lionel Monckton.

PORT ARTHUR FIGHT.

How the "Bottling-up" Failed.

JAPS' DEED OF DARING

Did Russia Destroy Two Torpedo Boats?

Japanese officials admit the attempts to block Port Arthur were not effective. Officers and crews on the "blocking" steamers were saved.

Admiral Alexieff claims to have destroyed two of the enemy's torpedo boats, but admits a Russian torpedo boat was cut off by Japanese.

Both sides report no lives lost.

Japan and Korea have concluded a treaty of alliance under which Japan guarantees independence and territorial integrity of Korea.

Typhus is reported to be raging among the Russian troops, but the real state of affairs is being concealed from the Russian people.

Last evening the Japanese Legation in London issued the following statement, which had been received from the Navy Department at Tokio, respecting the attack on Port Arthur on the 24th inst.:

"The fire steamers chartered for the purpose of blocking the entrance to Port Arthur departed for their destination at four o'clock on the morning of the 24th, passing along the south of Liao-ta-Shan. The Tenshin Maru led the way. She steered too much to the left. When she got to her point, about three miles south-west of the harbour entrance, it appeared she was struck by a shell and ran ashore."

"The other steamers changed their course to the north-east. A flash of the enemy's searchlight caused great difficulty to their movement. The violent fire of the enemy had the effect of striking and disabling the steering apparatus of the Bushu Maru, and she became unmanageable. She grounded close by. The Tenshin Maru blew up and sunk."

"The Bingo Maru was seriously damaged by the enemy's fire. She could not reach the entrance, and sank. The Hokoku Maru and the Jinsin Maru rushed towards the harbour entrance, when the former dropped close to the Revisan and the latter a little to the east of her. The fuses connected with the explosives on board were ignited, and with a loud cheer the officers and crews took leave of the sinking vessels and got into the boats."

"Owing to the constant use of the enemy's searchlights and the sustained fire of their guns the fugitives were compelled to skirt the coast, and could not reach our torpedo boats. At day-break the wind grew stronger, and the sea rougher, but after indecipherable hardships these officers and men at length succeeded in regaining the main fleet at about three o'clock in the afternoon."

HARBOUR BLOCK INEFFECTIVE.

In a report sent prior to the foregoing, Vice-Admiral Kamimura says that on the morning of the 24th the Japanese fleet bombarded the enemy's vessels and fortresses of Port Arthur at long range, and as the Novik, Askold, and Bayan were seen fleeing towards the inner harbour it seemed that "the blocking of the harbour had not been effectively done," whereupon a bombardment of the inner harbour was continued for a quarter of an hour, and one of the Russian torpedo boats was destroyed.

RUSSIAN VICEROY'S REPORT.

Admiral Alexieff, in his official report, says the Russians repulsed the attack by the enemy's destroyers, and "sunk two of the enemy's ships were sunk by our fire." Russian destroyers followed "the retreating enemy," but came across only Japanese torpedo craft, the enemy's large ships not being visible.

The admiral says that the three cruisers which were seen by the Japanese fleeing to the inner harbour on the morning of the 25th really went out to escort the Russian torpedo boats which were at sea back to the harbour, and admits that one of the latter was cut off by the Japanese, and made for Pigeon Bay, where she was shelled by the enemy. The succeeding bombardment is reported, but the Russian admiral says "the enemy's fire did not often reach us," and the only casualty was one sailor wounded.

During the night of the 25th and the morning of the 26th, the Japanese torpedo boats, disguised as junk, are said to have made an unsuccessful attack on the port, and two of the Japanese boats were sunk by No. 18 battery.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS DYING.

Typhus Attacks Troops in the Trains.

Russian officials are concealing from the people at home the terrible havoc which disease is making among the soldiers who are now on their way to the front. Frequent and frantic appeals for definite news about the soldiers is met by the reply: "All's well," but nothing is allowed to transpire as to the real condition of the wrecked men.

In reality the suffering among them is terrible. They are insufficiently clad to withstand the icy weather, and as the trains move slowly along towards the East the men become so numb that the trains are stopped every few hours, and the men ordered out to shovel snow in order to restore warmth to their chilled bones.

To add to the terrors of the journey, typhus is being made to break out, and hundreds of soldiers are dying on the way. Available medical assistance is of the slightest, and urgent appeals are being made to headquarters for the speedy dispatch of doctors and nurses and medical appliances.

JAPAN KOREA'S FRIEND.

TREATY RATIFIED FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND PROTECTION.

Japan has concluded a treaty of alliance with Korea which has, among its main objects, the maintenance of permanent and solid friendship between the two countries. In addition, the Government of Korea undertakes to place full confidence in the Government of Japan and act upon Japan's advice in regard to improvement in administration.

On the part of Japan a definite assurance is given that it will guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of Korea, and in case the latter are threatened by a third Power or by internal disturbances, Japan undertakes to adopt measures necessary to protect Korea's welfare and its territorial integrity. For these purposes Japan may occupy such portions of Korea as may be required.

Although objection has been taken by Russia to the ratification of this treaty, it is not at all likely that this agreement between Japan and Korea will lead to any complications in the present situation. By an stretch of language can it be said to affect the position of France to the extent of rendering it imperative for her to give active assistance to Korea.

The arrangement is obviously for the convenience, chiefly, of Japan in carrying out necessary military movements, as her plans are developed, but it is none the less essential in the interests of Korea that the latter should have the advantage of ready protection from possible internal, as well as external, dangers.

It is admitted that the Korean soldiery cannot be regarded as an effective fighting force, and it is no part of Japan's schemes to utilise Korea's army for her coming encounters with Russian troops. The Emperor of Korea will employ his men for ordinary protective purposes, and it is in the last degree improbable that they will be employed with the Japanese forces against Russia.

For these reasons it may confidently be assumed that the new treaty is not likely to disturb the existing political relations between the remaining Powers.

ENGINE FALLS THROUGH THE ICE.

A locomotive on Lake Baikal has broke through the ice and disappeared.

The trans-Siberian railway (says Reuter) is in a very congested state, being crowded with passengers of both sexes and all ages flying from Manchuria. They are even travelling fourth class because of the insufficient accommodation in the other classes.

RUSSIAN HORSEMEN RETREAT.

The following official telegram was received by the Japanese Legation from Tokio yesterday:

"At nine o'clock on the morning of the 28th a number of the enemy's cavalry appeared at a point 700 metres north of Yung-Yong. Our infantry fired upon them, causing them to retreat."

WAR FLASHES.

Russia has only five months' supplies at Port Arthur.

General Pflug reported yesterday that at least four-eighths of the enemy's fleet are lying outside Port Arthur.

Russia is still resisting offers of a loan from prominent foreign banks, who are anxious to issue such a loan abroad.

Russians have stopped and searched the British steamer Bonholder, bound from Leith to Yokohama, in latitude 28 deg. north.

Dispatches from Tokio state (says Reuter) that Admiral Togo's fleet will continue bombarding Port Arthur until the place is untenable or the Russian fleet destroyed.

The Russian submarine Mandjur is still lying inside Shanghai Harbour, and has not been dismantled. She has steam up constantly, and three Japanese warships are in waiting outside the harbour.

Confirmation has been received of the report that the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi has captured in the Red Sea three steamers flying the British flag and carrying 15,000 tons of coal for Japan.

To show her sympathy with Japan a lady residing at Notting Hill called at the Yokohama Specie Bank the other day and gave a donation of a sovereign for the Widows and Orphans' Fund. She regretted her inability to give more, but offered to leave two valuable Japanese swords to be sold for the benefit of the same fund.

Ten officers and sixty-seven sailors of the Japanese Navy manned the fire steamers which were sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur, and their rescue surprised the Japanese, who fully expected that none would escape. The Emperor (says Reuter) will publicly thank and present medals to all who took part in the exploit.

Feb. 5.—Japan sends her Note breaking off negotiations.

Feb. 7.—News published in St. Petersburg and London.

Feb. 8.—Russia has the first shot, the Korietz firing on Japanese warships off Chemulpo.

At midnight the Japanese made a torpedo attack at Port Arthur, disabling three Russian warships.

Feb. 9.—Naval battle off Port Arthur; four Russian ships disabled.

Combat between Japanese squadron and Russian ships Varig and Korietz off Chemulpo; both Russians sunk.

Treaty for success to Russian arms.

Feb. 10.—Tear issues formal proclamation of war.

Japanese troops occupy Seoul, the capital of Korea.

M. Kurino, the Japanese Ambassador, leaves St. Petersburg.

Feb. 11.—Bridge on Manchurian Railway reported blown up.

Japan formally proclaims war.

Declaration of neutrality by the other Great Powers.

ENGLAND IN WHITE.

THE QUEEN DRIVES TO CHURCH IN A SNOWSTORM.

Fur overcoats have come in again. A week ago the tailors were persuading their customers to inspect patterns of the newest thing in spring Raglans. To-day fur is hardly warm enough to keep our bodies up to the requisite number of degrees Fahrenheit.

Saturday and, especially, Sunday were cold days in London, with plenty of sunshine at that; in the country there has been sunshine, with snow in profusion. The Surrey hills, the Downs behind Dover and Folkestone, the Derbyshire uplands are covered with crisp, hard snow, that has come to stay for a week or two.

Out of London the weather is that of an old-fashioned Christmas, minus the skating. But even that may follow if the weather holds.

At Sandringham yesterday the weather was bitterly cold, and Queen Alexandra drove to church in a snowstorm that must have recalled her native Denmark.

The Scottish Highlands and glens are feet-deep in snow. The shepherds are getting their flocks under shelter and drawing their planks tight round their brawny shoulders.

Our own special weather expert prophesies a continuance of the present wintry conditions.

KING AT CAMBRIDGE.

As Prince of Wales, the King is as well-known at Cambridge as in almost any town outside the metropolis. He was in residence as an undergraduate, and proceeded to his degree in 1854, since when he has been a fairly regular visitor to his Alma Mater, frequently paying unofficial visits.

To-morrow the town and University will be en fête to receive their Majesties for the first time as King and Queen.

The new buildings to be opened have cost something like £110,000.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN IN A MOSQUE.

Mr. Chamberlain, during his visit to the mosque of Sultan Hassan, in Cairo, was in danger of offending accidentally Mohammedan susceptibilities.

In company with his wife and Lady Cromer he had, on entering the mosque, put on yellow slippers in default of removing their shoes, in accordance with Mohammedan custom, so that their shoes should not touch the sacred ground.

While Mr. Chamberlain was walking round the building the strings of one of his slippers became unfastened and his shoe emerged from it. The watchful Arab guardians immediately perceived the accident, and two or three of them ran to him, put his foot back in the slipper and fastened the strings.

VOLUNTEERS AND WAR.

"Volunteers," said Mr. Arnold-Forster at the prize distribution of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers on Saturday, "must essentially be part of the Army." They must be a force which would be of use in a fight, and which, when it fought, could be able to render a good account of itself. The object of the Volunteers was not primarily physical training, but to form regiments able to take the field in case this country found itself at war.

SPEECHLESS FRENCH CABINET.

The "Figaro" asserts that profound differences of opinion exist between French Ministers on a number of points. Only such intercourse as is strictly necessary now takes place between the members of the Cabinet.

Each Minister (says Reuter) brings to the council papers which must be signed, accompanied by the indispensable minimum of explanation, but no exchange of views and no conversations take place on these occasions.

ENOUGH FOR ONE MAN'S STRENGTH.

Announcing at the annual prize-giving of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers on Saturday his resignation of the command of the regiment, which he has held for twenty years, Sir Howard Vincent said he felt he must unwillingly leave the councils of the surgeons of the regiment, who declared that the fiscal question was quite enough at present for his strength.

During the voyage of the American Line steamer St. Paul, which reached Plymouth on Saturday, her commander reported that John Prenton, one of the stewards, jumped overboard and was drowned. Some time ago, having saved several hundred pounds, he started a business in Liverpool, but failed. The loss preyed on his mind.

DIARY OF THE WAR.

Russian transport Yenisei blown up by a mine at Port Arthur. Four officers and ninety-two men killed.

Feb. 13.—China addresses a Note to Japan and Russia that if the Imperial Tombs at Mukden are not respected she will take steps to protect them by force.

Feb. 14.—Second night torpedo attack on Port Arthur. Russian cruiser Boyarin damaged.

Feb. 16.—New cruisers Kasuga and Nishin reach Japan.

Feb. 17.—Russia issues proclamation promising Japan chastisement for her "treachery."

Feb. 19.—First encounter between Cossacks and a small Japanese detachment in Korean territory, on the south side of the Yalu. Some Japanese taken prisoners.

Feb. 23.—Treaty of Alliance concluded between Japan and Korea.

Feb. 24.—Japanese attempt to "bottle up" Port Arthur.

Feb. 25.—Further attack on Port Arthur. Russian torpedo-boat sunk.

Feb. 26.—Japanese reported to have landed at Pessiet Bay, to the south of Vladivostok.

Feb. 27.—Treaty between Japan and Korea announced.

SICKNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Dissolution and Defeat at the Polls Freely Talked Of.

The Government is sick unto dissolution, and nothing but the weakness of the Opposition prolongs its days. All the well-known symptoms have developed during the absence of Mr. Chamberlain, who contributed more than any other man to the patient's vitality.

"The end is in sight," said a reputable political prophet. "We are counting the days, and preparing for a dramatic collapse at any moment."

"Not only is dissolution in the air. Defeat at the polls is also freely talked of. Tariff reform has temporarily lost its charm, and Chinese labour for South Africa is a horse that does not run well in the traces with protection."

"Then Mr. Austen Chamberlain's Budget promises to prove the last straw. The Exchequer is at least £7,000,000 to the bad. It is a closing chapter of disasters. After a voyage of nine years the ship of State is literally on the rocks."

The forecast made on Saturday by the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* that an additional twopenny may be added to the income-tax to replenish the depleted Exchequer, affords another reminder that the present Government has been an expensive luxury, with very little to show for the indulgence extended to it. That is popular opinion summarised.

During these last nine years the Government has gone through a colossal sum of money, and have not earned a reputation for skill in economising the resources at their command.

The annual expenditure in 1895, when this Government came on deck, was £95,000,000; in 1904 it has mounted up to about £140,000,000, or practically half as much again. This period has, of course, comprised a costly war, with military reforms in its wake on an elaborate scale.

But the British taxpayer is tired of being victimised.

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES.

Army Bill to be Reduced by Eight Millions.

That the Government realise the need for economy is shown by the Army Estimates for 1904-5, which only amount to £28,900,000. That is 1904-5, which only amount to £28,900,000. That is £28,900,000 less than has been spent on the Army in 1903-4.

This, however, does not include the Somaliad war, which may cost us a good deal more before we have done with it.

The number of men in the Army has been reduced by 8,761. It is now 227,000. The Guards (with the exception of the Irish Guards) and the infantry of the line have been cut down in numbers, and also the Field Artillery, while the Royal Garrison Regiment has been deprived of three out of its former eight battalions.

The South African garrison is to consist of 21,500 men, and they will all be housed in barracks or huts by the autumn. The horse-drawn artillery is to be reduced to 1,000, and the cavalry to 1,000. The garrison will be reduced to 21,500, more than if the regiments composing it were in this country.

By the end of next month the reserves of general stores and clothing, and also the artillery, will be pretty well complete.

Last year, in spite of the raising of the pay of the private, the number of recruits was only 40,000, as compared with 50,000 in 1902.

MORE PLAIN SPEAKING.

War Office Methods Frankly Criticised and Drastically Reformed.

The War Office Reconstitution Committee, in the second part of their report, which the King has approved, deal largely with questions of spending money. The present system, they say, is futile in peace and ruinous in war-time. It appears to be based on the assumption that military officers cannot be trusted with money, and must be controlled by civil authorities. The result of this has been to divide the War Office into two camps, warlike officers regard one another with mutual suspicion.

In future, matters of finance will be entrusted largely to officers holding high commands. The commands will be distributed on a new plan, which will relieve congestion at the War Office, and help to put our Army organisation on a war footing instead of a footing which assumes that we shall always be at peace.

The Committee consider that no officer should be attached to the War Office for more than two years at a time. This will, they hope, get rid of "narrow habits of thought and observation."

The importance of a General Staff, to act as the brain of the Army, is very strongly insisted upon. Such a Staff will take years to create, but, when created, tend to the avoidance of such disastrous mistakes as were made in South Africa.

The system of promoting officers is to be reorganised, and it will be made possible for deserving officers to be promoted more quickly.

The third part of the Committee's report will be issued before long.

UNAPPROPRIATE POLICEMAN.

Who was he? To-day Mr. MacVeagh will pose the question in Parliament. A young halyard, Rostrevor was stopped in the street by a policeman, who insisted on his reading the Bible. The policeman, it appears, had already denied that it was he, and Mr. MacVeagh wants the Irish Secretary to state whether the constabulary and mysterious constable is going to be identified and reprimanded.

TO-DAY'S WEATHER.

Our special weather forecast for to-day is: Increasing easterly winds; cloudy and very cold; snow at times.
Lighting-up time: 6.37 p.m.
North Sea and English Channel passages will be rough; Irish Channel, moderate.

TO-DAY'S NEWS AT A GLANCE.

Japanese official accounts state that five steamers which attempted to block the entrance to Port Arthur were sunk. The blocking was not effectually done, and in the subsequent bombardment of the harbour one vessel, a torpedo-boat, was destroyed. A treaty of alliance has been concluded between Japan and Korea which provides for maintenance of the territorial integrity of Korea.—(Page 2.)

Army Estimates for 1904-5 are less by eight millions sterling than the sum expended on the Army in the present financial year.—(Page 2.)

Further reforms are proposed by the War Office (Reconstitution) Committee in their second report which has been approved by the King. The Committee speak severely of the methods which have prevailed at the War Office in the past.—(Page 2.)

In Parliamentary circles discussion is again rife as to the position of the Government. Dissolution is thought quite possible at an early date, and, in view of the £7,000,000 Exchequer deficit, defeat at the polls is looked for among many Conservative members.—(Page 2.)

Arrangements are now complete for to-morrow, when the King and Queen visit Cambridge to perform the ceremony of opening new buildings erected at a cost of £110,000.—(Page 2.)

Strong hopes are entertained of persuading H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to visit South Africa next year in connection with the meeting of the British Association.—(Page 3.)

Leith was the scene of a sensational affair on Saturday night, a discharged corporation employee endeavouring, it is alleged, to murder three officials with a loaded revolver. He escaped from the scene, but was later arrested by the police with the weapon in his possession.—(Page 6.)

One result of the tragic death of Major the Hon. H. J. Anson, of the 2nd Highland Light Infantry, has been to plunge two titled families into mourning. The coroner's inquest resulted in a verdict of Suicide whilst temporarily insane.—(Page 6.)

Charged with the attempted murder of his sister-in-law, a Liverpool cattleman, named Kirwan, was on Saturday remanded. Prisoner, armed with a loaded revolver, is alleged to have previously attempted to kill his wife.—(Page 6.)

Interest at the rate of 110 per cent. was held by Mr. Justice Phillimore not to be excessive in a case decided by his lordship in the High Court on Saturday.—(Page 5.)

Lord Roberts, together with the Duke of Beaufort, is to be made an honorary member of the British Society of Merchant Venturers on April 15.—(Page 13.)

Warm appreciation of the hospitable reception accorded them was expressed by the French commercial delegates, who left London for Paris on Saturday.—(Page 5.)

This is Leap-year Day. Interviewed on behalf of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror*, several well-known actresses have told how they would advise the lovely leap-year spinster to propose to bashful man.—(Page 15.)

A new edition of the musical comedy, "The Earl and the Girl," was introduced at the Adelphi on Saturday night.—(Page 15.)

Breastree has a plague of rats which infest some of the old quarters of the town. Organised efforts to exterminate the rodents have so far proved unavailing.—(Page 4.)

What is described as an attempt at "ragging" is reported on the part of a section of the nursing staff at Tooting Bec Asylum. The chief offenders were promptly dismissed.—(Page 6.)

When two men were charged at North London Police Court on Saturday with the theft of a diamond ring, the police had in one case made a mistake. The man's daughter called her sweetheart, who admitted his guilt and was fined 10s. The money was paid by the father, liberated as a result of his confession.—(Page 3.)

Disgraceful scenes were witnessed on the occasion of the second day's play in the Test match at Sydney. The crowd, to show their indignation at the action of the umpires in stopping the game owing to rain falling, hooted and threw bottles on the playing field.—(Page 14.)

Treatment by violet electricity rays has become very popular with society folk as a result of success achieved in the working of this new cure method.—(Page 4.)

Colonel W. T. Schroeder, an American gentleman, has devised a scheme for flooding the Saharan desert at a total cost of between £50,000,000 and £50,000,000.—(Page 13.)

After evidence of identification had been given the coroner's inquiry opened on Saturday respecting the death of the seven victims of the City fire was adjourned. In most of the cases relatives identified by means of jewellery found on the bodies.—(Page 6.)

Though cold, Saturday was an ideal day for steeplechasing. Consequently the Hurst Park meeting was largely attended. Racing was interesting.—(Page 14.)

Charged with attempted pocket-picking, an elderly man, named Reed, was at Southwark Police Court sentenced to six months' hard labour. It was stated that prisoner, well dressed, resorted to churches during confirmation services.—(Page 6.)

To-Day's Arrangements.

The King holds a levée, St. James's Palace, 12.
Lord Rosebery presides at, and Mr. Asquith, Sir Henry Fowler, and Sir Edward Grey attend, a dinner of the Liberal League.
The National Festival in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Association Football: Wales v. England, Wrexham.

DISEASE AND COLD FIGHT AGAINST RUSSIA.



The sufferings among the Russian soldiers, en route to the East by the Siberian railway, are terrible. Every few hours the trains are stopped and the men are made to shovel snow to restore their circulation. Typhus is raging on the trains and numbers are dying on the way.

PRINCE MAY GO TO CAPE.

The members of the British Association are entertaining strong hopes of being able to get his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to accompany them to South Africa next year in connection with the 1905 meeting, which is to be held in that Colony.

The idea of holding some of their annual conferences in the Colonies is an excellent one, as a means of stimulating the intellectual life of the Colonies, and in creating new bonds of sympathy between the distant links of the Empire and the Mother-country.

FOUNDER OF THE COMMISSIONAIRES.

The death is announced of Captain Sir Edward Walter K.C.B., founder of the Corps of Commissionaires. He was in his eighty-first year.

His experience in the Army impressed on him the disadvantage soldiers suffered on leaving the service, and he started the Corps of Commissionaires with eight men, of whom only one survives. The present numerical strength of the Commissionaires is 2,828.

Sir Edward Walter was an uncle of Mr. A. F. Walter, chief proprietor of the "Times."

SWEETHEART'S CHOICE.

Two men, named William Wilks, forty-three, and James Arthur Mead, twenty-eight, were, at North London Police Court on Saturday, accused of being concerned in stealing two sacks of Welsh coal from a barge on the Lea, at Essex Wharf. Mead pleaded guilty, but Wilks said he was innocent, a statement which the other prisoner corroborated.

Wilks called his daughter, who said she could speak to his innocence. The other man was Jim King, her sweetheart, who was willing to give himself up if her father was let go. As a result of this statement, the case was put back. Later, King attended and admitted he was with Mead when the coal was taken, Wilks being in bed at the time.

Wilks, given an excellent character, was then discharged, King taking his place in the dock. Bearing in mind that he had voluntarily come forward to save an innocent man, the magistrate said he should only fine him 10s., or seven days. Wilks paid the fine.

Mead, stated to be well known to the police, was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

"TOMMY'S" ARITHMETIC.

"For, it's Tommy this, and Tommy that, An' chuck him out, the brute—"

In certain quarters of King's Lynn, the "Tommy" in this instance being not Mr. Thomas Atkins, but Mr. Thomas Bowles, the sitting and free-foot Conservative member for that borough.

The president of the local Loyal and Constitutional Association has informed Mr. Bowles that the association, which boasts some 250 members, had, by 185 to 152 votes, passed a resolution expressing the opinion that it was impossible to carry their rebel member at the next General Election.

Mr. Bowles has replied with a little problem in simple addition and subtraction; for the 250 members hardly account for the 337 voters.

BRAWLING AT ST. PAUL'S.

Mr. Kensit, junior, is attempting to carry on the crusade initiated by his father, but with indifferent success.

His protest at St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday to four of the candidates for priestly orders caused only a dignified rebuke from the Bishop of London and an intimation that he would be proceeded against for brawling.

MUCH NEWS IN FEW WORDS.

Interesting and Curious Happenings from Many Sources.

It was stated yesterday morning that Lord Shand had passed a fair night, and his condition remained unchanged.

Because his wife and son had run away from him, a Berlin bookbinder named Beier went to the public baths and shot himself.

The State Capitol at Madison (Wisconsin) has been almost completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at £160,000.

A once well-known ballet dancer, who has recently died at Vicenza, aged eighty-seven, has left half a million of francs to be spent in charity.

Lady Egerton, the wife of the new British Ambassador at Madrid, has been received by Queen Christina and the Infanta Maria Teresa.

The village of Kingscliffe, in Hampshire, has the distinction of possessing a Calvinistic Methodist chapel with a congregation which has dwindled from a hundred to two persons—a man and his

cordial approval of all those having at heart the unity of the Party in the constituency.

Judge Renoult has announced his intention to withdraw his candidature for East Down at the next Parliamentary election.

Inquiry into the death of Mr. Pethick, an undergraduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, showed that he was taken suddenly ill while waiting for a hockey match.

Lord Minto on Saturday entertained 100 officers to dinner at Ottawa on the occasion of the anniversary of the battle of Paardeberg. The Canadian Minister of Militia and Major-General Lord Dundonald were present.

Sir J. H. Symon, K.C.M.G., writing to the Cobden Club from Adelaide terms Mr. Chamberlain's views about preferential trade "all moonshine." I think it is a great pity a distinguished statesman should have so ill an opinion of

LIGHT ON ILLS.

Complexions Restored and Scars Removed by Violet Electric Rays.

A modern elixir vite has been found in the new light cure. Society ladies seek its aid whenever they require a new complexion, rheumatic old gentlemen are relieved of their trouble while they wait, and patients afflicted with obesity emerge from the brilliant rays of violet light with a girth of which no one need be ashamed.

Light baths are now more in favour than the Turkish bath, and numbers of people call in daily at Herr Kroeger's institute, in Eaton-square, to be electrically cleansed. His Majesty the King has two of these light baths at Buckingham Palace, and frequently has two or three baths a week.

The baths, which are cabinet shaped, are fitted inside with electric lights, and in each of the corners is a violet ray arc lamp. It is by means of this powerful violet light that many of the cures are effected. It is possible with these rays to slowly peel the skin off the face, and no matter

how coarse the complexion may have been before the new surface will be as pure as the complexion of a baby.

Lately a number of British subalterns have called in for the removal of face wounds received in South Africa, as scars gradually disappear under the influence of the Finsen rays. The light has the effect of stimulating the corpuscles of the blood to such an extent that new tissues are formed by the extension of the cells, and the scars vanish with the healing of the wound.

Should a neurasthenic wreck seeking relief, tetter quivering into the dust, find it, it is a mere work of minutes to turn on the rays and in a short time bow him out a picture of exuberant health.

It may even be possible, Herr Kroeger thinks, to remove the traces of smallpox. He is now engaged on experiments with a new and more powerful light appliance with which he hopes to bring off cures that have hitherto defied all medical skill.

Although as yet the dumb have not been made to speak, the deaf have been made to hear by means of a combination of light, vibration, and electricity. The apparatus used gives out an iron light which contains enormous quantities of ultra-violet rays. These rays are reflected on to the drum of the ear by a specula. The rays first destroy any bacteria or causes of growth and then cause the blood to flow to the surface of the illuminated parts and nourish the ear.

It may happen in the future that the doctor will cease to utter the significant "umph," so dear to the faculty, and instead of ordering his weary patient off to the seaside simply clap him into an all-curing light bath, switch on some special form of ray, and pronounce him cured.

ELECTRIC RAYS ARE THE LATEST CURE FOR MANY ILLS.



Society ladies are now seeking the aid of electric light to restore lost complexions. The powerful violet rays of electricity slowly peel the skin off the face and neck, leaving the new surface fresh and clear.

PIED PIPER WANTED.

To Rid Baintree of Rats That Eat Carpets and Attack Children.

A plague of rats has infested the oldest quarters of the town of Baintree, and one side of the main thoroughfare is completely dominated by them.

Children sleeping three storeys from the ground have been fiercely attacked at night by the invaders. A state of terror prevails, and has spread to older people.

A white-haired lady, who has lived in the street all her life, told a representative of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* that the rats have destroyed the comfort of her home. Traces of the devastation wrought by the rodents could be clearly seen in large holes were eaten through the wainscoting and the floor.

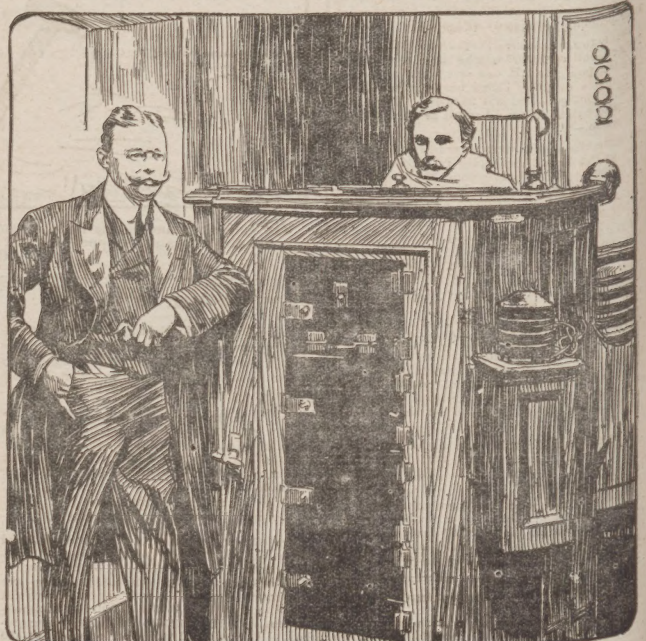
The woman's husband, who works at a factory, is greatly worried about the invasion, and his wife says he has had to get up in the night to drive the rats from the bedroom. "They come up in swarms from the cellars," said the old lady. "They come bouncing out of my pantry, jump over the chairs and tables, and don't seem in the least afraid. They cleared the food out of my pantry, so that I am obliged to lock it up in a chest of drawers, and now they have taken to eating up the clean linen and the carpets. As we have sat down of an evening we have seen the carpet move up and down where the rats run along."

In adjoining houses similar stories are told. While preparing breakfast one woman suddenly missed a piece of bacon weighing half a pound from the table, and was just in time to see a large rat dragging it down a hole.

In another a rat sprang from the table to the mantelshelf and refused to move for the mistress of the house until three women armed with brooms came upon the scene and gave him his quietus.

The rats are of abnormal size and very daring. A few nights ago no fewer than twenty-nine were caught in one large wire cage. It was a wonderful sight, said a policeman to whom the catch was shown, to see so many rats packed in as close as they would go; but the Baintree rats learned wisdom from that night, and not one will look at a trap now. Sporting dogs are now being sought for, and fanciers can be assured of plenty of exciting work for their terriers.

ELECTRIC LIGHT CURES RHEUMATISM.



Baths of electric light rays are the newest cure for rheumatism and similar troubles. The baths are cabinet-shaped, fitted inside with powerful lamps. The King has two of these baths at Buckingham Palace, and often takes two or three light-baths a weeks.

wife. On Sundays the pair walk to the meeting-house, and one prays while the other reads a homily.

Shooting with 13in. guns the United States battleship Wisconsin has beaten the world's record, making nine bulls-eyes out of a possible ten in ten minutes.

The Duke of Cambridge has been obliged to postpone his intended visit to Brighton on account of indisposition. His Royal Highness is, however, much better, and making satisfactory progress.

On the occasion of the Kurban Bairam festival, which lasts four days, the Sultan of Turkey has received the congratulations of the diplomatic body, and has gone through the ceremony of "kissing of hands."

From both land and water the London firemen were throughout yesterday engaged in extinguishing a great fire at Fisher's granary on the banks of the Thames at Rotherhithe. The damage by fire and water is estimated at more than £14,000.

It is now confirmed that M. Loubet will visit Italy on April 24. After his stay in Rome he will proceed to Naples with the King, to be present at a naval review and other festivities to be held in his honour.

Mr. T. Holme Sumner having decided not to offer himself as a candidate in opposition to the sitting Conservative member for Chertsey at the next election, Mr. Balfour has written to Lord Onslow a letter stating that his action will have the

our loyalty and Imperialism as to prophecy disintegration unless we are bound by commercial bargains."

Bethnal Green Guardians have given notice of rewards amounting to £220 for the apprehension of some forty runaway husbands and fathers, whose wives and children have become chargeable to the union.

West Ham was en fête on Saturday, the occasion being the opening of its first section of electric tramways. The late arrival of the Board of Trade certificate delayed the start, and, as a result, there were turbulent scenes at Stratford.

The total quantity of coal exported from the United Kingdom to France in 1902 was 7,408,000 tons, and in 1903, 6,978,000 tons. The total quantity of coal imported into France from Germany in 1902 was 1,013,000 tons, and in 1903, 1,054,000 tons.

Stepney Borough Council have adopted by-laws providing that any person shouting or advertising any article or newspaper by ringing a bell or other noisy instrument on the Lord's Day, or between twelve midnight and six a.m. on other days, shall be liable to a penalty of 40s.

Three performances of Congreve's comedy, "The Way of the World," are announced to be given at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, March 20, and the afternoon and evening of Monday, March 21. Admission to the performance on Sunday evening will be reserved to members of the Mermaid Society.

REALITY FOLLOWS A DREAM.

Before the Blackpool magistrate on Saturday a labourer named Hayes was sent for trial on a charge of attempting to murder a woman with whom he was lodging.

The latter stated she said to Hayes on Wednesday night, "Oh, Jack, I had such a curious dream. I dreamt you were cutting my throat."

Hayes passed the matter off as a joke, but next night entered her bedroom with a razor in his hand, and said, "Now then for what you dreamt the other night." He then seized her by the shoulder and attempted to cut her throat.

When arrested Hayes remarked, "Worse than I thought. Of course, drink is the excuse."

HEALTHY LONDON.

During the last fifty years the number of deaths in London in a year has fallen from 24.8 to 15.1 per thousand. This fact was put forward by Dr. Newman Hall, medical officer of health for Finsbury, in a lecture on Saturday, as testimony to the admirable work done by the public health department.

Incidentally, in connection with the subject, he mentioned that Londoners paid £30,000 a year for the water alone in their milk.

Italian papers announce that the German Emperor will have an interview with King Victor Emmanuel during his trip in the Mediterranean.

TO-DAY LOVELY WOMAN MAY PROPOSE.

LEAP-YEAR DAY.

Continued from page 1.

it, I'm sure—I should say to him, 'do you like good dinners?' He would, of course, say 'Yes.' 'Would you,' I should add, 'like to have good dinners for the rest of your life?' 'Of course I would,' he would naturally reply. 'Then you can, but you must have me with them.' That is how I should manage such a man," laughed Miss Trevelyan.

Or Starve Him!

"Oh, no," said Miss Marie Dainton, who had listened to Miss Trevelyan, "I shouldn't be nearly so kind. I should take him and lock him up in a

Wednesday

GAIETY THEATRE
STRAUD W.C.

Dear Sir
Suppose for Christmas
I should write him
a letter—
Lost—Some time ago
a young heart, answers
me to the name of
Isabel—last seen
in the company of
a small blind boy
who was dressed as
a boy & carries a
sweet smile. As
the owner has no
further use for it—
he sends her. Had to
exchange it for me
that while I remain
alone to the name
of Lottie

This is how Miss Gertie Millar would write to
the man she wanted to marry.

most uncomfortable cellar. I should keep him
there for at least a week in absolute starvation. I
should let him out, and as he appeared in a weak
and emaciated condition I should make it very
clear to him that unless he would marry me he
would undergo further torture."

Miss Kate Cutler confessed that her imagination
could scarcely grapple with such a problem,
but "if," she said, "I could imagine myself doing

anything of the sort, I should overcome the difficulty in this way. I would get the man to myself and talk to him very nicely of all the comforts of married life. The blessings of home, the sweet companionship of a wife, the little attentions a man appreciates so much—I should put them all before his eyes as well as I could. If he appreciated these things, and, of course, he would, I should say, 'Then, why don't you ask me to marry you?' and he would immediately."

Would Never Ask Him.

Miss Isabel Jay, busy as she could be rehearsing for the new piece at Daly's, had not a minute to spare. "I can't possibly conceive of such a contingency," she said, smiling; "if a man had not sufficient courage to propose to me, rather than ask him I would remain an old maid for the rest of my life."

Diallke Bashful Men.

Miss Blanche Ring also declared she could never imagine herself doing such a thing. "If I could I should do something like this," she said: "I should talk to him about bashful men, and how I



Miss Marie Studholme is an expert in Leap-Year proposals, for she has a backward lover to deal with each night in "The Orchid" at the Gaiety Theatre. Below is the letter in which she advises others to follow her example.

OUR FRIENDS THE FRENCH.

The latest entente cordiale visit came to a close on Saturday, when the twenty-five delegates representative of French trades and industries left the Holborn Viaduct Hotel on their return to Paris. The delegates were delighted with the gala performance at the Empire and the Covent Garden

TO COERCE A BASHFUL LOVER.



Miss Marie Dainton would take violent measures to secure the man of her heart. She would lock up the backward swain in a cellar and starve him until he accepted her Leap-Year proposal.

she said, "I couldn't do such a thing. It's positively silly to think of such men. I could never propose to a man. In fact, I hate all men."

Climbing to the top of a tram at Acton on Saturday night with his dog in his arms, Joseph Ingfield, a labourer, tripped and fell into the roadway, fracturing his skull. He was taken to Acton Cottage Hospital, but died on admission.

Ball. Before the Frenchmen left on Saturday morning their president expressed his high appreciation and thanks for the hospitality they had received, and hoped soon to receive a return visit.

Sir William R. Anson, Bart., M.P., has been appointed a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery in the room of the late Right Hon. W. E. H. Lecky, M.P.

Dear Sir
I propose to Mr. George
Surrey's Junior every night
in the second act of
"The Orchid" at the Gaiety
Theatre. This is the only
time I have ever proposed to
a man but is the only way
I know. Marie Studholme.

Miss Marie Studholme's seasonable advice to spinsters who wish to wed.

SATURDAY'S LAW AND POLICE.

GALLANT SOLDIER'S END.

Two Titled Families Plunged Into Mourning by the Suicide of Major Anson.

Major the Hon. Henry James Anson, a brother of the Earl of Lichfield, and second in command of the 2nd Highland Light Infantry, stationed in Jersey, took lunch as usual with his wife on Friday, and afterwards went upstairs to his dressing-room and blew his brains out.

Major Anson was forty-five years old, and but twelve months ago had married Lady Adelaide Audrey Ryder, a sister of the Earl of Harrowby. He had served with distinction in South Africa, being twice mentioned in dispatches. Wounded and invalided home from the front, he had been in bad health ever since, and during the past fortnight had suffered from a severe attack of influenza.

A chill, caught on the preceding Sunday, had aggravated his condition, and ever since he had been low spirited and depressed.

Dr. Bentliff, his medical attendant, had seen him on the Friday morning, when Major Anson appeared "as happy as a man can be."

The Result of Influenza.

Towards three o'clock Margaret Stanford, a servant in the house, heard the report of a pistol. She left her work and immediately hurried upstairs, where she found Major Anson's dressing-room door ajar. She pushed it wide open and saw her master lying on the floor. Not knowing what to do, she fetched the groom who entered the Major's room, to find him lying in a pool of blood, claspings a revolver in his life's hand.

At Saturday's inquest, after the facts already cited had been elicited, Lady Adelaide Anson stated that her husband had been ill three weeks or a month, and that he appeared better when the doctor saw him on Friday morning. He had never threatened to harm himself, and he had no reason, beyond weakness, to be depressed. She had noticed nothing strange about him at lunch.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide while temporarily insane.

In Jersey the greatest sympathy is felt with Lady Adelaide Anson. Her husband was extremely popular on the island, where, a keen soldier, he had been one of the foremost founders of the Sailors and Soldiers' Institute.

FEMALE "RAGGERS."

Plan to Duck an Asylum Nurse in a Bath Falls.

Ragging, as a means of getting rid of an undesirable person, has for the first time been adopted by the gentler sex in the persons of eight nurses of the Tooting Bec Asylum in order to point out to one of their number that her presence was not appreciated.

It appears that one of the junior nurses of the asylum went to the medical superintendent and requested that she might be transferred to another ward, stating that the senior and superior nurses of the ward in which she was doing duty made things uncomfortable for her, and that it was evident that they preferred her room to her company. She would not, however, mention any names, but the superintendent had his suspicions, and sent for two of the nurses of that particular ward and told them in very plain language that any attempt at bullying any of the junior staff would not be tolerated.

The two nurses, it seems, went back to the ward and told the others what had taken place, and it was there and then decided to "pay her out."

Copying an Army Method.

The next night, when the young nurse had retired to rest, several of the nurses entered her room, pulled her out of bed, and proceeded with the offending junior to the nearest bathroom, where they intended giving her a ducking. The young nurse effectually resisted their efforts to plunge her into the bath, and upset their original plan.

Nothing daunted, however, they sprinkled her with cold water, and in the tussle the junior's lip was cut and bled freely.

When the superintendent was acquainted with the facts he sent for the two offending nurses and gave them to understand that they were no longer members of the staff of that institution.

Ragging is not by any means a new method of getting rid of an undesirable, though this is the first case on record in which it has been attempted by females. The details of the recent Army ragging cases are still fresh in the memory of the public; notably the great Cape ragging case, which was the subject of a special court-martial in London lasting many days. Indeed, in many cases, ragging in the Army has been so successfully carried out that it has been the means of many a young subaltern resigning his commission.

LINKS OF THE GREAT DEAD.

When Henry Campion, thirty-six, of Hackney, was charged at Worship-street Police Court on Saturday with the unlawful possession of a pair of gold sleeve links bearing the crest and initials of the late Emperor Napoleon, a pawnbroker said that accused offered them in pledge. They were worth a good deal, and witness said he must leave them for inquiries and call again. On his second visit a policeman was in attendance. The links were of exceptional make and of 18ct. gold. One had the letter "N" under the French crown and the other "L. N."

Accused said the links were given him by his first wife seven years ago, she having had them from a grandmother, and supplied other information which was found to be quite correct.

The magistrate said there was no evidence of unlawful possession, and prisoner was discharged.

CITY FIRE VICTIMS.

Relatives Identify Their Dead at the Opening of the Inquest.

Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City coroner, opened the inquest on Saturday on the bodies of the seven persons who lost their lives in the fire at Duke's Head-pass, Paternoster-row, in the early hours of last Thursday morning.

The names of the victims were given as Ada Eliza Faulkner, thirty-two; Florence Charlotte Faulkner, seventeen; Daisy Ethel Simmons, nineteen; Sarah Mills Thackeray, twenty-six; Dorothy Francis Harrison, twenty-two; William Black Fordham, twenty-two; and John Watson, forty-five.

In almost every case it was only possible for the relatives to identify the bodies by means of the rings, earrings, or other articles of jewellery worn

DODGING REVOLVER SHOTS.

Exciting Experience With an Infuriated Workman.

Leith on Saturday was the scene of a desperate attempt at murder by a discharged workman, who, it appears, was infuriated at having lost his employment.

Patrick Quin, twenty-eight, a scavenger, employed by the town authorities, was dismissed on Wednesday last for neglecting his duty. On Saturday he called at the inspector's office for his wages.

Chief Inspector Grant and his son, assistant inspector, with the paymaster, named Greig, were present, when it is alleged Quin, who was not sober, drew a revolver from his pocket and fired two shots at the chief inspector, whose finger was struck by the shot.

Quin then fired at Greig, who stepped behind

ONE OF THE SEVEN FIRE VICTIMS.



Winifred Harrison, one of the victims of the recent fire near St. Paul's Cathedral, was the only support of her invalid mother and three young brothers and sisters.

by them. Ada Faulkner was recognised from her gold earrings; Daisy Simmons from a large chainring worn on her finger; and Sarah Thackeray from her earrings, which were set with turquoises. The proprietor of the coffee rooms in Ivy-lane and Duke's Head-pass, Alfred George Fordham, identified the body of his nephew, William Fordham, who had acted as manager at Ivy-lane. The coroner asked the witness how many rooms there were at the house in Duke's Head-pass.

Mr. Fordham replied that there was a basement used as a kitchen, and a ground floor for the use of customers. A wooden staircase led to the upper storeys. On the first floor there was one room. Above that there were two rooms, and one on the third floor. There were no windows at the back. Seven persons slept at the house in Duke's Head-pass, and all were now dead.

The inquiry was adjourned until March 8.

Duncan Jenkins, of the City Arms public-house, Deptford, was at Greenwich on Saturday fined 10s. for serving a drunken person with alcoholic liquor.

his desk, and the bullet lodged in the wall. Quin next fired three shots at the assistant inspector, who defended himself with a stool, and the bullets struck the ceiling.

Ultimately Quin was knocked down, but he managed to escape. He was afterwards captured in the street, the police finding the revolver and fifty ball cartridges in his possession. He had taken out a gun licence in order to purchase the weapon on Saturday.

SUBJECT FOR HOME TREATMENT.

George Edward Bishop, aged fifty-four, who described himself as a magnetic healer, living in the Marylebone-road, pleaded guilty before Mr. Plowden at Marylebone on Saturday to the charge of being drunk and disorderly.

Mr. Plowden: What are you?
The Prisoner: A masseur—a rubber.
Mr. Plowden: You are described before me as a magnetic healer. If you are, try and cure yourself of drink. I am sure you will find no difficulty. Two and sixpence or one day.

OFFICER'S LOANS.

Judge Holds That Interest at 110 Per Cent. Was Not Excessive.

Mr. Abraham Lazarus, a registered money-lender, trading under the name of Mr. A. Masters, in Mr. Justice Phillimore's Court on Saturday sued Mr. Arthur Blake, described as an officer in the Army, to recover £100, the amount of a promissory note given by the defendant in respect of a loan of £100.

The defendant pleaded that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable, and claimed relief under the Moneylenders Act.

Mr. Shearman, for the plaintiff, said on December 17 last the defendant, who was a young gentleman about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, came to the plaintiff and asked for a loan of £275, for which he gave a promissory note for £120, and to obtain payment of that amount the plaintiff had to issue a writ. The plaintiff agreed to make the defendant the advance of £100 on his giving a promissory note for £160 and undertaking to repay the amount by instalments.

720 per Cent. 1

The defendant, counsel continued, failed to pay the first instalment, and the whole amount became due. He submitted that according to the authorities large interest did not, *per se*, make the transaction harsh and unconscionable. The plaintiff ran considerable risk in making the advance, and he was entitled to ask for adequate interest.

Mr. Rowlatt, for Mr. Blake, contending that the transaction ought to be held to be harsh and unconscionable, stated that in this case the interest claimed amounted to 720 per cent., as the whole sum had become due within a month of the advance having been made.

Mr. Justice Phillimore said it was for the defendant to satisfy the Court that the interest charged was so excessive as to make the transaction harsh and unconscionable. In some cases 20 per cent. per annum might well be excessive; but in others hundreds per cent. might not be unreasonable. In this case there was some reason to suppose that the defendant might have obtained money on easier terms.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances, he thought that the plaintiff was entitled to judgment for the sum advanced, with interest at the rate of 110 per cent. per annum.

Judgment for plaintiff accordingly, with costs.

GIPSY AMAZONS.

Farmer's Account of a Battle with Hedge Sticks.

Five gipsies—Mary Print, Esther Lamb, Elizabeth and Fanny Clarke, and Thomas Print—were charged, before the Colchester magistrates on Saturday with assaulting John Edwards, an Earls Colne farmer.

Edwards and his foreman attempted to impound straying horses belonging to gipsies camping on an adjoining farm when two male members of the gipsy community intervened and engaged in a battle with hedge sticks.

The gipsies, eventually getting the worst of it, ran off for help, and returned with four women, who advanced in martial order, with sleeves upturned. According to the evidence Edwards returned, came Thomas Print, who first attacked, but while both were struggling on the ground the four women kicked Edwards about the face and body.

One woman seized Edwards's beard and pulled it, his face with her fist, knocking out five teeth and rendering him insensible.

The prisoners were committed for trial to the Quarter Sessions.

AN ATTENDANT OF BISHOPS.

When James Reed, sixty-nine, was brought before the Southwark magistrate on Saturday to answer a remanded charge of attempting to pick pockets, Detective Collins, of the V Division, said prisoner was an old offender, having undergone about twenty years' imprisonment for various crimes. He was, said the witness, a clever pickpocket, and his favourite places of resort were churches. Dressed smartly in a frock-coat and silk hat, he followed bishops at confirmation services.

The Magistrate: To be confirmed?

Witness: No; to pick pockets.

The Prisoner: I have been a victim of purses; but you see that from 1860 to 1878 there were no convictions against me.

Detective-sergeant Waters: He is a Continental thief as well, and our information is that he went to France during this period.

The Magistrate: Your appearance is very deceptive. Six months' hard labour.

DISAPPOINTING EQUINE BARGAIN.

Charged with obtaining £24 by false pretences from a Limehouse butcher named Knightsbridge, a traveller named W. H. Beppard was on Saturday at the Thames Police Court remanded.

Prosecutor advised for a "fast and shrewd" cob, 14½, roan or light chestnut, five or six years; must be a good one. Correspondence with prisoner at Birmingham ended in a cheque for the amount being sent to him. The cob which prosecutor received in return was dun-colored, with only one eye, and so lame that it could not walk from the station.

Greatly troubled at becoming bankrupt and receiving a summons to attend before the Official Receiver, Frederick Webb, of Delmeere-terrace, Paddington, threw himself out of an upstairs window. A verdict of Suicide while of unsound mind was returned at the inquest on Saturday.

10,000 RUGS GIVEN AWAY

FREE PRESENTATION.

GUARANTEED GENUINE BARGAINS.

Sale Price, 3/6.
Postage 4d. extra.
Free Gift: Sizes 38, 40, 42.

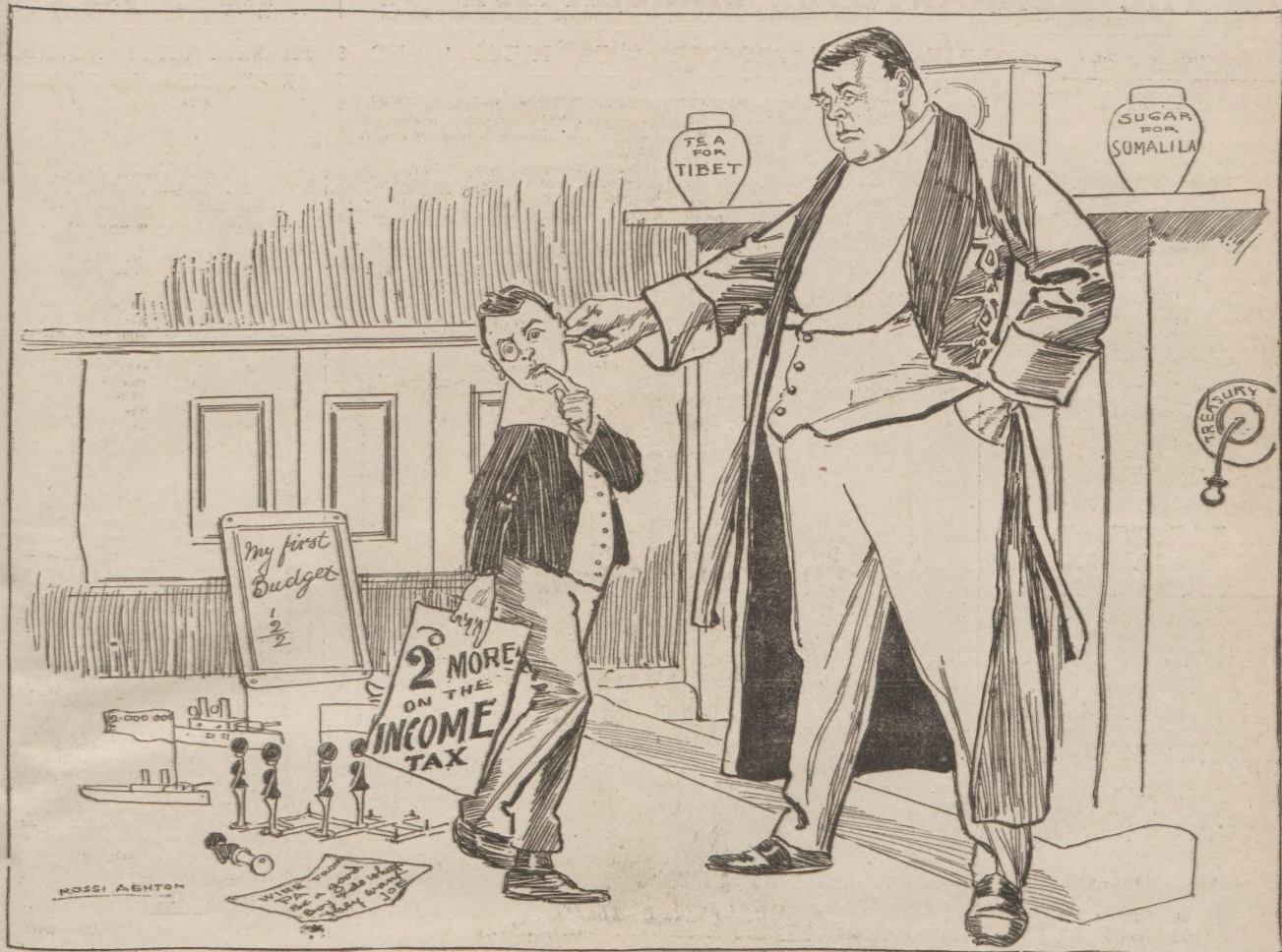
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HEART PENDANT, PEARLS AND AND SCENTED CASKED WITH

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THAT TWOPENCE MORE ON THE INCOME TAX.



UNCLE JOHN B. LL to MASTER AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Chancellor of the Exchequer, who will "want some more"): "Look here, young man, don't tell me you've spent your pocket-money and want more, because I tell you you're not going to get it."

AMUSEMENTS.

HAYMARKET. TO-NIGHT, at 9.
JOSEPH ENTANGLED, By Henry Arthur Jones.
Preceded at 8.30 by THE WIDOW WOOD.
MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.30.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Proprietor and Manager, Mr. TREE.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.15.

THE DARLING OF THE GODS.
By David Belasco and John Luther Long.

MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.15.
Box Office (Mr. Watts) open daily 10 to 10.

IMPERIAL THEATRE, WESTMINSTER.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. LEWIS WALLER.
TO-NIGHT, and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30.
A Version of Victor Hugo's "Ray Blas," entitled
A QUEEN'S ROMANCE.
By John Davidson.

Ray Blas Mr. LEWIS WALLER.
The Queen of Spain Mrs. PATRICK CAMPBELL.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.
Box Office open 10 to 10. Tel. 3195, Gerrard

ST. JAMES'S. Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER

Will appear EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, in
OLD HEDDELBERG.
MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, 2.15.

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EXCEEDS 140,000 COPIES.

Is France Our Future Ally?

The boast that Britain could afford to stand apart from the combinations formed for purposes of mutual safety by the other Powers was taken from us when we made an alliance with Japan. And now that the tradition upon which British policy rested for so many years has been broken down, all sorts of further alliances are being talked about. Here is so grave an organ of public opinion as the "Spectator," for example, urging that it would be an advantage to us to promise France that we would protect her against Germany if by any chance her treaty with Russia should come to an end.

In what way would it be likely to come to an end? Well, if Russia asked France to help her against Japan, and France refused, that would certainly finish it. Even if Germany proposed to France to intervene diplomatically with the object of saving Russia's face, and France were to decline to do that, the result would be the same. The German Emperor, argues the "Spectator," has, therefore, the power to put France into a position in which she will either have to risk war with us, or else to lose the ally on whom she has counted for so long and to whom she has lent so many millions of her savings.

From this it follows, naturally enough, that, if we want France to refuse any such proposals, we must make it worth her while, and we could undoubtedly do that by offering an alliance with us in the event of Russia taking umbrage at the French attitude. At the same time, we have to consider that we should be tying one of our hands still more securely

behind our back if we were to enter into yet another alliance. Far better than any policy or combination would it be for us to make ourselves so strong that no one would think of attacking us lightly, and to shape our course of action in such a way as to avoid being drawn into other people's quarrels. The money we provide now for the Navy and the Army would be quite enough to keep out strength up to the necessary standard, if only it were properly expended.

The Key of the Street.

In this bitter weather it gives one a pain to read that in the centre of London there are some 1,800 persons to be found every night walking about the streets or huddling together wherever a little shelter can be found, because they have no money and no home. And it is even more pitiful to reflect that for most of them nothing can be done. There may be among the 1,800 a few capable of being turned into good citizens, but the mass must consist of incapables beyond the reach of a helping hand. Their condition is no less a shame to England on this account, for it is neglect on the part of this and past generations which has resulted in the breeding of incapables and in the slackness of fibre so characteristic of the present age.

BREAKFAST TABLE TALK.

Sir John See, Premier of New South Wales, has started on a sea voyage for the benefit of his health. It seems a sort of homœopathic treatment, sea sickness for See sickness.

It seems fairly evident that a destroyer has been sunk at or near Port Arthur. As each side claims that it has no casualties, and that the sunken vessel belongs to the enemy, it appears to be a promising case for arbitration.

The "Figaro" asserts that profound differences of opinion exist between the members of the French Ministry. No wonder there is an entente cordiale when England and France have so much in common.

Mr. W. W. Hammer—a striking name, by the way—asserts that Californian pitchblende is far superior to the mere European article as a producer of radium. People stepping out

of the comparative gloom of a summer's day into a Californian radium mine are nearly blinded by the radiations from the ore, and the miners are compelled to wear spectacles made of boiler-plate.

There were storms at the fourth Test match at Sydney, and the glass fell so rapidly that ground attendants spent most of their time between the showers in clearing the broken bottles on the pitch.

Boris Sarafoff has decided to remain for some time yet at Geneva, where, it is understood, he is keeping a watch on the Balkans. The peace of Europe is, therefore, considered safe for a few weeks, unless the hotel proprietor makes trouble about the great revolutionist's bill.

The news that all was quiet at Pogranitschnaya might have done much to restore European confidence, but, at the same time, comes the ominous intelligence that a shot has been fired at a Russian sentry at Nadaoschi. The sentry returned the compliment, both shots missing their mark; but it is feared the incident may lead to strained relations between Russia and Japan.

It was stated of Mr. James Reed, who was charged at Southwark with attempting to pick pockets, that he made a speciality of churches and especially of Confirmation services. The magistrate wanted to know if the prisoner wished to be confirmed, but it was pointed out that he was a confirmed thief already, with twenty years' imprisonment as his record. He will consequently worship at a prison chapel for the next six months.

During the hearing of a summons for carrying a gun without a licence at Stratford the supervisor held up the gun and remarked that he had no desire to press the charge. The chief desire of the Bench, expressed in some haste, was that he should not press the trigger. The juvenile owners of the gun were fined 2s. 6d. each, and a few moments later the gun was discharged—from custody, and the report was entered in the court archives.

In striving to be nice to Sir Howard Vincent, apropos of Mr. Winston Churchill's alleged intention to contest the former's seat, Mr. Brodrick succeeded, as usual, in putting his foot in it. "I do not know," said the Secretary for India, "that Sir Howard Vincent has done anything at the present moment which makes him objectionable." When Sir Howard does appear before the electors he is not likely to make use of Mr. Brodrick's very guarded testimonial.

THE GUARANTEED CIRCULATION OF "THE DAILY ILLUSTRATED"

TO-DAY WOMAN PROPOSES. ON PAGES 1 AND 5 THESE PRETTY ACTRESSES TEL THE LUCKY



MISS FLORENCE LLOYD
could not imagine proposing at all. "In fact, I hate all men," she says.
(Photo—Johnston & Hoffmann.)



Miss Kate Cutler cannot imagine herself as proposing, but if she had to, she would hold out the inducements of home comforts and sweet companionship.
(Photo—Johnston & Hoffmann.)



MISS ISABEL JAY
is terribly shy, and rather than propose would have remained single all her life.
(Photo—Johnston & Hoffmann.)



MISS ADA REEVE
dare not propose direct, and would do so by delicate suggestion.



MISS HILDA TREVELYAN
would give a man a good dinner before she proposed. She believes in "feeding the brute."
(Photo—Johnston & Hoffmann.)



In the Cross Country Championship of the Southern Counties at Lingfield on Saturday, Alfred Shrubbs led all the way and won by 300 yards.



The New Century Steeplechase at Hurst Park on Saturday was run at a very fast pace throughout, and resulted in a clever victory for Mark Time, who jumped beautifully. The horses are shown coming over the fourth fence.



The Corinthian Football Club beat Stoke at Queen's Club, Kensington, on Saturday, by 4 goals to none. The photograph shows a "throw-in."



The Cross-country Championship of the Southern Counties, was contested at Lingfield on Saturday. Alfred Shrubbs, of the South London Harriers, was the winner. The competitors numbered 216. The photograph shows them negotiating a fence.



In "The Ore"
(Photo)



Miss Lily Bray
Beerbohm Tree
(Photo)

DAILY ILLUSTRATED MIRROR" EXCEEDS 140,000 COPIES PER DAY.

ACTRESSES THE LUCKY SPINSTER HOW SHE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LEAP YEAR.



JAY propose would have her life. Johnston & Hoffmann.



EVELYAN r before she proposed. ng the brute. Johnston & Hoffmann.



ed in a clever e.



igfield on Saturday. numbered 216. The



In "The Orchid," at the Gaiety Theatre, Miss Marie Studholme makes use of her leap-year privilege and proposes every night to Mr. Lionel Mackinder. With this clever and pretty dance her acceptance is celebrated. [Bartholomew & Co. Photo]



MISS BLANCHE RING would tell the man she wished to marry that she was sure they would be very happy together. [Photo—Johnston & Hoffmann.]



MISS EDNA MAY would prefer to lower the lights before she proposed to a man.



Miss Lily Brayton, one of the prettiest of English actresses, has played at His Majesty's Theatre with Mr. Beerbohm Tree in his principal successes. She and her husband, Mr. Oscar Asche, are going into management together shortly. [Johnston & Hoffmann. Photo]



Miss Marie Studholme makes use of her leap year privilege every night in "The Orchid," and thinks that is as good a way as any.

THE PATH OF THE PRODIGAL.

A Story of the "Never-Never Land."

By Wilson Barrett, who is appearing this week at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

CHAPTER XXXIX. (continued).

Lady Walgrove silently stroked the beautiful head that was nestling on her bosom. Was she shocked or grieved? Neither. She was glad. Jack's crime was great; so had been his punishment. Surely, if ever sin was committed under extenuating circumstances, this was. All her charity, all the "mother" in her went out towards Jack. Had he been selfish in taking the place of her son, was she not selfish in wanting him to keep it? And she did want him to do so.

"Darling," she said, softly, as if half ashamed of the question she had to ask, "could he not still be my son? After all, is his sin so great? He has never wronged us, save in gaining our love. Well, is that so great a crime? Has he not brought us happiness? Why am I grieving now? Not for the wrong he has done, but for the knowledge that he is not what we believed, and that he may go from us. Could I have loved him more if he had been my son? I answer, no. My child, what have you to say?"

"Mother, I love him," was the simple answer. "Let us go to him, Sibyl."

Hand in hand, they went to Jack's room. Jack had not expected them and was startled at their appearance. They were shocked at the change in him. He seemed years older; his face was lined and drawn; his eyes looked tired, as though worn weary from many sleepless vigils.

CHAPTER XL. In South Africa.

Two years had passed since Jack left Landale. After putting the affairs of the estate in order, he volunteered for the war in South Africa, and was sent at once to the front. His fine horsemanship and skill with the rifle, his long experience of war and camp life in Australia and America made him invaluable as a scout, and his devotion and bravery won him a commission within a year.

After the signing of peace his regiment was disbanded at Johannesburg.

During one of his scouting expeditions in the Transvaal he had encamped on a deserted farm, the homestead of which had been burned. All that was left were the walls of the house and the Dutch brick oven. His old mining experience came in handy. Prospecting about the place, more from habit than design, he found signs of gold. Keeping his discovery to himself, he minutely marked the spot, and when he was discharged returned to it. Finding that the owner had been killed at the front, and that the farm was in the hands of an agent, he bought it, paying down a third of the value and leaving the rest on mortgage. Returning to Johannesburg he endeavoured in vain to form a company to exploit his property. The forced inactivity of the mining market made men fight shy of new speculations just then.

From Johannesburg he went to Kimberley, and then he travelled down to Cape Town. On arriving there, he drove out to Sea Point, but deadly fever, contracted at Kimberley, had him in its clutch. Getting a room at the Queen's Hotel, or,

had been expecting it for days, and had quite made up her mind how to face it. She interrupted him, saying:

"Now, Jack, dear Jack, if you are going to rake up that wretched old bogey that I have laid to rest for ever I am not going to stand by and see him resuscitated. He's dead; let him rest. You still love me, I suppose?"

She supposed. Not much a matter for supposition for anyone who could see Jack's face. "You suppose—oh, Sibyl," was his feeble retort.

"Well, then, I know. Oh, Jack, and all this self-condemnation has got to stop. It's not a nice compliment to my discrimination or taste to be continually calling my future husband bad names."

"Your—what?" gasped Jack.

"My husband. You surely don't mean to say that you refuse me!"

Jack had nothing to say. He was very weak, you see. But if he could not speak he found a use for his lips which Sibyl endured as best she could.

CHAPTER XLI. And Last.

When Jack left Landale, Lady Walgrove, acting on his advice, retained Tom as his substitute pro tem. When Tom saw Lady Walgrove and Sibyl off to Africa he conjectured the reason to the full. His surmise was confirmed by a cablegram, concocted on the verandah shortly after the occurrence of the incidents recorded in the last chapter. In the fulness of time Jack received the following letter from Hewley:

Dear Mr. Mowbray.—It gives me much pleasure to repeat my congratulations on your coming marriage. I conclude, as a matter of course, that you have not only Lady Walgrove's consent to the match, but also that of her son, who left two years ago for Australia, which country must possess a strange fascination for him, or he would never give up this beautiful Landale for so long. I have heard a rumour that he has lately met with some accident. If he were to die just now it would be very unfortunate, as it would, naturally, delay his sister's wedding. I hope that

REMEMBER TO-MORROW;

"AT A MAN'S MERCY."

OUR ENTHRALLING NEW SERIAL.

Jack, in his turn, saw the two pale, distressed faces that he worshipped, noted the sorrow written in them, and cursed himself for the fault that had brought them such pain. Lady Walgrove was the first to speak.

"We have come to you in answer to your letter, Jack," she said.

"Jack!" At the sound of the old name he started. Then his eyes turned to Sibyl. What was he to say? "Yes, Lady Walgrove?" he asked, in a questioning tone.

Lady Walgrove shivered as she heard her name pronounced. "Am I never to hear you call me mother, again?" she said.

"Can you dream of it? Now you know of my deceit—my crime."

"I do not wish to belittle the fault, Jack, but I must not be harsh in judging it. That your account of how you were impelled to commit it is true, I do not doubt. Nor can I for a moment question your statement that you have never wronged me in any other way. After what you have been to us, can you wonder, now that I know the truth, that the regret for your fault is drowned in the sorrow of the thought that I must lose you? Think of that wretched woman who was associated with him. Had he returned, I must have had to receive her as my daughter, as Sibyl's sister. Think of it. But it is not only this that I have saved us from. You have saved me from death. Had you not come to us when you did, I should have died. Will you leave us now? Will you undo all the good you have done?"

Jack listened with deep emotion. The more nobly these women behaved to him, the greater seemed his sin against them.

"Lady Walgrove, if anything were needed to convince me that I cannot stay, it would be your generous forgiveness. The greater your kindness, the more hideous my crime seems to me. To meet you daily, hourly, now that you know me for what I am, is not possible. I must go."

"Jack," cried Sibyl; "you will not—you cannot!"

"Do not make my task harder than it is. I must go. Let it be as though we had never met. I am young yet, the world is still before me. I can, and will, redeem myself. When I have done that, when I can feel that I can look you straight in the eyes again and honestly say the debt is paid, and that my honour is solvent once more, then I will ask you to let me come to you as a friend. Until then, I beg of you to let me go. It must be so."

Vainly they pleaded. In the end, feeling the hopelessness of further entreaties, they gave him back his promise; and he went from Landale, alone.

rather, its annex, a bungalow standing in the hotel gardens, he sent for a doctor.

He had promised Lady Walgrove to keep her always advised of his whereabouts, and to notify her if wounded or ill. He cabled her his address and promptly lapsed into insensibility. Week after week, he battled with the fever, and more than once it seemed to the watchers that he must succumb. The doctor telegraphed to Lady Walgrove the serious nature of his case, and without an hour's hesitation, the devoted mother and daughter decided to sail at once for Africa.

Then the liner, the Walmer Castle, with the woman he loved on board, had come to anchor in Table Bay.

The doctor had come to meet them, and leaving the baggage to the care of the servants, the doctor drove at once to the cottage where Jack was lying. As they walked up the garden surrounding the house the sound of his voice came to them through the open window.

"Sibyl, Sibyl, come—come—quick—quick!" he was saying.

Sibyl needed no spur to urge her on. In a moment she was at the door of the room, and with a caution from the doctor and nurse to be on her guard, she entered.

What a thrill ran through her heart, as she saw once again the man she so faithfully loved. So changed was he, so weak, so helpless. The tears silently down her cheeks as she looked upon him. "He was scarcely recognisable."

"Sibyl, Sibyl," he muttered.

The doctor motioned her to go to him. She went, and, placing first her hand on his fevered forehead, she kissed both of the closed eyes. All muttering and tossing ceased instantly. For a few seconds he lay perfectly still. Then his eyes slowly opened and turned wonderingly towards Sibyl. He gave a deep sigh, as of great thankfulness, and, holding feebly on to Sibyl's cool, soft hand, he sank, without a word, into a peaceful slumber.

The doctor whispered, "Miss Landale, you have done more than could have been done; you have saved his life. The crisis is probably passed. He will live."

When Jack awoke it was to full consciousness. The fever had left him, and, although weak in body, his mind was perfectly clear. He looked round the room, and, seeing no one but his nurse, could not but think the momentary glimpse he had caught of Sibyl had been a vision. But just then Sibyl entered the room. In a moment her arms were round his neck, and the poor, weakened fellow was resting his face on her breast, where, perhaps, it would be as well to leave him, for the present, at least.

It need scarcely be said that Master Jack had a fairly good time of it during his rare convalescence. In a few days he was helped to totter out on to the verandah to sit in the delicious fresh air and be petted by his friends to his heart's content. He was too weak to resist or argue, and they had it all their own way with him. He and Sibyl were alone.

Little had been said about the past. Jack had been too feeble to approach what must be an agitating subject. He was stronger now, and, like most men of his generous nature, he could not be content with letting any fault of his pass over lightly.

"I want to speak to you of—"

But he was not allowed to proceed. Sibyl had been expecting this harking back upon his fault,

this wedding is an accomplished fact by this time—or, rather, that it will be by the time this reaches you. By the way, did I ever tell you what a strange resemblance you bear to Mr. Landale? I have told everybody here of it, and they are quite prepared to see an extraordinary likeness when they are able to compare the two faces. It will no doubt, be some time before you return, as you will be sure to wish to give your wife and her mother a trip around the world, more or less, before coming to Landale. Taking into consideration the long time Mr. Landale has already been absent, it is not at all sure that he will be so well remembered that the likeness between you will attract so much notice as I think it will. It is very marked, however, and may strike others as it does me. I hope to hear of your marriage within the next three weeks. Please convey my respectful congratulations to Lady Walgrove and Miss Landale; and, believe me, truly yours, T. HEWLEY.

The result of this exceedingly sophisticated epistle was a marriage quietly performed at Cape Town, in which Miss Sibyl Landale became Mrs. John Mowbray. The news of this interesting ceremony was at once cabled to Tom, and a week or two afterwards that astute young gentleman let it get abroad that news had been received of the sudden death of Mr. John Landale in the Bush of the Never-Never Land; and, a little later, of the departure of Lady Walgrove and Mr. and Mrs. John Mowbray to visit his grave and wind up his Australian affairs.

The latter operation did not take long, as the reader will surmise. Still, it was a full year before the party returned to their home at Landale, and by that time—dear old Bruds having left for another world—there was no one to say more than that "Muster Mowbray did certain sure favour Muster Landale, 'cept Muster Mowbray wur older and more jolly-like."

"And 'more jolly like' Jack was indeed, for he had been forgiven freely, his South African pro-perty was yielding him an immense income, he was perfectly independent of his wife's resources, which he managed quite as well as did the late John Landale, the burthen of his sin had fallen from his shoulders, and he was as happy as a man could hope to be.

Perhaps it is not quite true to say there was no one to discover that Jack Mowbray had once passed as John Landale. There were two who knew it. They were Snudge and Mamie D'Olan; Mamie D'Olan, by the way, no longer, for Mamie is now the mistress of one of the stateliest homes of England, wearing a coronet with queenly grace and distinction, happy, honoured, and beloved.

And Snudge? Ah, dear little Snudge, and a vastly improved Snudge, is one of the closest friends of the Landale household. No happier being breathes.

THE END.

WILSON BARRETT

Will appear TO-NIGHT and during the next two weeks at the

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (afternoon and evening), a GRAND REVIVAL OF

"CLAUDIAN."
In celebration of the coming of St. Patrick's Day, "BEN-MY-CHIEFE." Saturday, "THE SILVER KING." Ordinary prices. Box Office now open.

SPECIAL SALE

OF

Second-Hand

Pianolas

FOR ONE WEEK,
Commencing TO-DAY
(Monday), 29th February,
and terminating Satur-
day, 5th March.

As a result of the introduction of the Metrostyle Pianola, a great number of our patrons have exchanged their old instruments for this new model. The number of these exchanges has increased so rapidly of late that we have accumulated a stock of 183 Pianolas which have been slightly used, and will now be offered as second-hand.

The Pianolas above mentioned are of the original model on which the reputation of the Pianola has been built, and which has gained for the instrument its position of unquestioned supremacy as the standard piano player. Many of them are scarcely to be distinguished from new. All have been thoroughly inspected, are in first-class playing order, and carry our usual guarantee.

The Pianola transforms our voiceless piano into a source of the keenest delight, and makes it accessible to every member of the family. The present opportunity of securing one of these instruments at an exceptionally low price is one which cannot fail to commend itself to everyone interested in music in the home.

Among the Pianolas offered are included models in walnut, rosewood, ebony, oak, and marqueterie, and, in order to make room for new goods, they will be sold at prices varying from £26 to £45. We expect a great demand for them, and you will do well to write or call promptly to secure the benefit of an early choice.

We are also including a number of Second-hand Aeolians, and that we have them to offer evidences that our instruments give great satisfaction to our patrons, since every instrument included in the present sale has been taken in part exchange for higher-priced goods. The net cash prices of the Aeolians when new ran from £40 to £280. They will be offered at £23 to £190, showing reductions of 25 per cent. to 45 per cent.

A few second-hand Pianos by Bechstein, Broadwood, Erard, and other makers will also be shown, prices £23 to £40; also several Organs by different manufacturers, prices £5 to £30.

Any of the instruments included in the sale may be had on the instalment system at slightly increased prices, on the basis of a moderate cash payment and the balance in equal monthly instalments spread over a period of one, two, or three years.

A detailed list and any further particulars desired may be had on application.

The
ORCHESTRELLE CO.,

AEOLIAN HALL,

135-6-7, NEW BOND ST., LONDON.

IN THE CITY OF DREADFUL NIGHT.

Seventeen Hundred London Vagrants of Both Sexes Nightly Face the Biting Cold Without Shelter.

"Time! Closing time, gentlemen! Time, gentlemen, time!" The potman's powerful voice heard nightly in London's public-houses at the stroke of half-past twelve is a signal that forces hundreds who are without the money for a night's lodging out into the streets. The mellow lights, the comfortable warmth of the beer-shop, are closed to them at 12.30 a.m.

Doomed to Tramp.

With fists crammed into their empty pockets, coat collars turned up, they are doomed to tramp the streets of London in rain, in snow, or fog, till the park gates open and they can throw their weary bodies on to a bench, or even lengthways on the dismal turf.

How many of these poor wretches huddle in doorways overnight, or wander, eyes turned on the gutters in search of some stray acorn, thrown away or lost by their more fortunate brethren during the busy day?

The London County Council has just taken a one-night census of the City's homeless poor. The Council's medical officer, accompanied by his as-

sistant and eighteen inspectors, has investigated a district that covers the heart of central London. Beginning at one o'clock in the morning, and working till five, the Council's officers counted 1,463 men, 116 women, 46 boys, and 4 girls—the boys and girls were practically children—who were forced to tramp the streets that night.

More fortunate than these were 100 men and 68 women asleep on the public staircases of tenement houses, in doorways, and under archways. In all 1,797 persons were without a roof to their head or a pallet to their bodies.

The suburbs and South London were not visited by the County Council's officers, but there is every reason to believe that out of every 20,000 Londoners one is homeless.

The Hopeless Hour.

There were, besides, 23,442 persons who had been able to pay for a "joss-house" had on that particular night, and at the same time 6,074 such beds stood vacant. The homeless, therefore, are about 9 per cent. of the class whose night's lodging is largely a matter of luck or ill-luck.

A strange place is London in the small hours of the morning, most hopeless, perhaps, between the hours of one and two a.m. From two to three the newspapers fill Fleet-street and the Strand with

carls, compositors, and an occasional journalist. From three to four there is a lull again, broken only by the sleepy rumble of market waggon bringing fruit or vegetables to the great market at Covent Garden. At five o'clock the market is in full swing, a few privileged public-houses open, and the great dawn warms the vagrant and the outcast that a new day is breaking over "the city of dreadful night."

In an hour or two the parks will be open, and the weary limbs can rest on the dank benches or find an uneasy couch on the rank, rain-sodden turf.

Caching a Cup.

The damp clothes cling to him, hunger and weariness have given him an apathy that no new suffering can shake. He is too tired, too empty, too weak, to steal or beg. At three o'clock he judged the price of a cup of coffee from some junior member of the Bar returning home to his snug quarters in the Temple. But, beyond this brief respite at the coffee-stall, the vagrant has shuffled along till the London pavement seems made of iron; so hard, so pitiless, it feels under the ill-shod feet. Now the dawn is chilling the moist grey air. It brings a shudder. But, at least, there are the parks, the dripping benches, and an uneasy forgetfulness.

BASTILLE FETTERS.

Houdini Gives Astounding Performance at Carmelite House.

Hearing that Houdini, "the Handcuff King," was about to commence an engagement "that will stagger humanity" at the Hippodrome to-night, the proprietors of the "Weekly Dispatch" last week challenged that artist to wear the identical manacles that had been worn by the Count de Lorge in the Bastille for fifteen years, weighing 105lb. Also two sets of manacles that had long ago shackled Jack Sheppard, and the identical handcuffs Charles Peace had on his wrists when he jumped from the train near Sheffield.

In addition to the above, it was stipulated that Mr. Houdini was to submit to be handcuffed with four sets of handcuffs of varying patterns, one of which was to be a word.

Having cheerfully accepted the challenge, at half-past ten on Saturday morning the "Handcuff King" presented himself at Carmelite House, and divested of a goodly portion of his clothing, was speedily ironed in the presence of a group of about thirty sceptical journalists.

Altogether the manacles with which Mr. Houdini was secured weighed 131lb. 24oz.

Old Fetters Better Than New.

A screen was placed before him, and those present withdrew to a distance and watched for results. Mr. Houdini asked for thirty minutes in which to free himself. For eleven minutes nothing occurred. Then on a sudden an ancient armlet was thrown over the screen.

The patent "word" lock, on which the journalists had pinned their faith, followed next, and in twenty-seven minutes exactly Mr. Houdini stepped from behind the screen free of all encumbrances.

He confessed to his vanquished hosts that the modern locks and handcuffs used had given him very little trouble. On the other hand, the Newgate and Bastille locks had all but baffled him.

"By Jove," he said, with a sigh of relief, "they made locks in the olden times. Those old-Bastille things gave me a lot of trouble."

It took Mr. Houdini exactly one minute to divest himself of the Jack Sheppard anklets. He confessed, too, that even in the Siberian transportation cell in Moscow he had not had a harder task to free himself than Fleet-street journalists had that morning set him.

At the termination of his clever exhibition, Mr. Houdini was presented with a certificate duly setting out what had been accomplished.

CHRISTIAN TRADING.

Philanthropic Limited Company to Convert Heathen and Earn Five per cent.

A prospectus in which attention is specially drawn to the fact that no dividends will be paid till 1910 is surely unique.

Such a prospectus will shortly be issued by the Papuan Industries, Limited. The object of this company is "to aid in the material, moral, and spiritual uplifting of the natives of New Guinea"—whose chief is Mr. Bromilow, an Englishman—"by stimulating them to make efforts for their own improvement through the cultivation of marketable products and other industrial pursuits."

It is proposed to start small plantations of 100 acres to 500 acres each for the cultivation of cocoa, rubber, coconut, coffee, etc. Copra (dried coconut) will be the main source of profit, and the fact that coconut trees take eight years to mature is the reason why no dividends will be payable for the first six years. At the same time some profit will be obtained at once from pearl and turtle shells.

The first object of the company is the good of the natives, but the promoters believe that reasonable profits may be earned by a trading concern working on Christian principles.

But the man whose soul does not soar above big profits and quick returns will do well to keep out of this business, for, in addition to the dividends being deferred, they will never be allowed to rise above five per cent. per annum.

The undertaking is in connection with the London Missionary Society.

The capital will be £50,000. Among prominent business men who have promised their support are Mr. W. H. Lever (of Port Sunlight) and Mr. George Cadbury, who have each offered to take 1,000 shares.

MR. YERKES' CONTRACTS.

Orders Placed in England, but May Be Executed on the Continent.

The statement issued that the General Electric Company of America, through its British subsidiary company, Messrs. Thompson and Houston, Limited, had received a contract for the supply of £1,400,000 worth of electric motors for London's underground and surface system, is denied by Mr. Yerkes's general manager, so far as the placing of the contract in America is concerned. But though the contract for the supply of the motors has been given to an English company, who have a strong American connection, it is pretty evident that the bulk of the work will not be carried out within British territory.

When seen by a representative of the Daily Illustrated Mirror, Mr. Yerkes's manager said: "The amount of the contract is greatly exaggerated. I would say that the total amount of the electric motors contract does not amount to more than one-third of the figure stated. We gave the contract to Messrs. Thompson and Houston, whom we know to be a British firm, and who, to my own personal knowledge, employ a large army of British workmen at Rugby."

As regards the contract of £400,000 for the supply of steel lifts, that has been placed with the Otis Elevator Company, Limited, of Queen Victoria-street, London, who are also a British firm and employ British labour; and I may say that also all the steel work in connection with the lifts will be all made here in England.

"I will give you an instance of a case in which we placed a large contract with an all-British firm who have been established on the banks of the river for two or three generations. The contract was for the supply of a large number of steel girders, and when I went to inspect the girders I had to go to Germany to do so, where the girders were being manufactured. So that we do not know if the firms with whom we have placed the contracts for the electric motors and the lifts will take a similar course and go abroad for their material and labour."

Accidentally falling in the river Louth, N.S.W., a man got jammed between two rocks and remained up to his armpits in water for two days until rescued by a passing barge.

Archbishop Bourne was at Westminster on Saturday presented by a deputation representing religious orders in the diocese of Southwark with silver plate and other gifts, and an address congratulating him on his elevation to the Archiepiscopal See.

THEIR ONLY HOME A STAIRCASE.



From 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. is the worst time for London's homeless poor. Recently the County Council made a census of these outcasts, and found that on one night in the central area alone 1,797 persons were without a head or roof. On a staircase near the Strand ten poor wretches had sought shelter from the cold and rain of a winter night.

WAITER'S EXCUSE FOR THEFT.

On Saturday at Bow-street Police Court, Henry Brands, twenty-eight, was charged with theft. Two 45 notes were missed on the 18th inst. from the pocket-book of Mr. J. Aird, a manufacturer, staying at Whitehall-court, who left the book on his bedroom mantelpiece while in the bathroom. One of the notes, which had been changed at a shop in Hammersmith, was traced to Brands, who was employed as a waiter at Whitehall-court, and he was taken into custody.

He pleaded guilty, and said he had been in hospital for three months, and his wife had been very ill. He had a heavy doctor's bill to pay, and when he saw the pocket-book on the mantelpiece the temptation was too strong for him.

Prisoner was ordered two months' imprisonment.

"PEACEFUL PERSUADERS" IN MACEDONIA.

Agents of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee are again very active in Macedonia. On the 21st inst. (says Reuter) they murdered a Patriarchist Bulgarian named Milosh, and hacked his body to pieces. Milosh was accused of having furnished the authorities with information as to the position of an insurgent band.

The bands are threatening the Christian villagers with fire and sword unless they rise at the first call. The Turks, on the other hand, at a village near Voden, stripped the church of all valuable ornaments, destroyed the icons, and threatened the villagers with death if they complained.

ECHO OF WHITAKER WRIGHT CASE.

The Law Officers of the Crown have drafted the promised False Statements (Companies) Bill, which is one of the immediate results of the Whitaker case.

The Bill enacts that if any officer of any company wilfully circulates any written statement relating to the financial affairs of the company which he knows to be false, he shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or in the discretion of the Court, to a fine not exceeding £500.

Three women, each believing herself to be the wife of Charles Taylor, a Bow photographer, accidentally met. He surrendered to the police to some trouble, and on Saturday was remanded.

Rudyard Kipling, speaking on the Cape Town elections, said: "For every man to get on, his hand legs and vote took him five minutes, but on his vote depended the future of the Colonies for five years."

WALKING WITH DEATH.

Dr. F. J. Waldo on Saturday held an inquest relative to the death of William Edward Freeman, a fish porter in Billingsgate Market.

While at work in the market Freeman suddenly fell to the ground and died. Medical evidence showed he was suffering from ambulatory enteric fever.

The Coroner: People sometimes have typhoid fever, and are walking about without knowing it?—The Doctor: Yes.

And they are apt to die suddenly, are they not?—Yes.

Death from natural causes was the verdict.

FREE FOOD AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

Before the Guildhall magistrate on Saturday Douglas Arthur, thirty-six, a clerk, was remanded charged with obtaining refreshments by false pretences at Messrs. Lyons and Company's premises in the City.

A shop inspector in the service of the company deposed to being called to the Holborn-viaduct depot as suspicion had fallen on Arthur, who answered to the description of a man who had been defrauding other shops. Witness sat down at the same table with him, and when he passed the cash desk, without paying and had got into the street gave him into custody.

Police-constable 272 informed the magistrate that when he arrested Arthur he said: "I've had no money for nine days."

WARDER'S EYES GOUGED OUT.

In the lunatic asylum at Gorizia, near Trieste, a warder saw that one of the lunatics had escaped from his room.

Krisz, as the warder was named, immediately grappled with the madman. The struggle ended in the lunatic obtaining the mastery. He threw the warder to the ground, and then, kneeling on his chest, gouged his eyes out. The agonised man yelled with pain, whilst the madman laughed with glee.

Other members of the staff succeeded in taking him back to his room.

The Duke of Devonshire is still confined to his house. It is stated that he is making satisfactory progress towards convalescence.

Magnetic medical treatment will be exhaustively diagnosed at the forthcoming trial at Tilsit, Prussia, of a noted quack named Schoeder. Prisoner will be allowed to experiment on hospital patients.

PART I. SOON.

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GARDENING AS A WOMAN'S OCCUPATION.

THE PROFESSIONAL LADY GARDENER.

HER TRUE MISSION.

Gardening as a profession for women has recently been under a cloud. This is due in no way to the workers themselves, or as a question of their competency, but owing to the fact that the occupation has been woefully misrepresented.

There was a popular impression that all a girl had to do, in order to qualify for a remunerative situation as a gardener, was to take a

three years' course at a horticultural training college, obtain a certificate of some sort, and go forth prepared to take up the reins of management in an establishment of any size.

This is nonsense. No amount of technical training in horticulture can take the place of years of actual experience. A man cannot think of taking a place as "head" in a garden of any pretensions until he has had at least twelve or fifteen years' experience, and it is difficult to know what system of training would turn out a competent lady "head" in less than a quarter of the time. What experience could a three years' college-trained woman have had in coping with a disastrous summer like the one that has just passed?

If a fair horticulturist makes up her mind to go into a large garden, her proper

sphere is undoubtedly in and about the houses. For arranging and carrying out schemes of table decoration, making bouquets and nosegays, tending pot plants, and thinking out and designing new forms and combinations of colour for flower beds her services are invaluable; and where suitable living accommodation can be found for her (a grave consideration) the lady gardener is a decided acquisition.

It is in another direction, however, that a larger sphere opens up for women with a knowledge of horticulture. This is in the capacity of a "gardener-companion." The new combination of occupations is quite an innovation, but one which has been found to work well. There are thousands of small houses throughout the kingdom occupied chiefly by elderly ladies, where the "gardener-companion" would be welcomed if she were only more widely known, to supersede the existing unsatisfactory methods of either leaving the garden in the hands of a local nurseryman or trusting it to the tender mercies of a handy man.

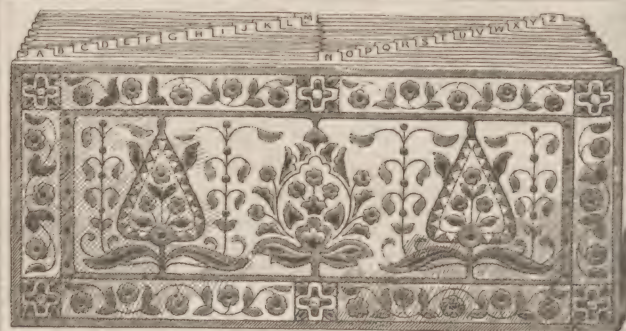
For such positions as these a well-educated woman is eminently suited, as nothing too ambitious is attempted, as a rule, in the way of culture, and she may experiment further as she gains experience. To assume for a moment, however, as has been so widely stated, that it is possible to take a college-trained girl and put her at once in charge of a garden employing, perhaps, twenty men and boys, is obviously absurd. It is also mis-



Above is shown a Coffee Coat of dove blue and pink brocade, much gauged beneath the arms, and worn with a fichu, a lace chemise and elbow ruffles to match.



Quiltings of taffetas are the latest form of trimming for spring dresses, and the adjacent picture shows the mode the adornment takes—that of borderings, rosettes, and loop bows in French grey upon a gown of the same colour.



Particulars of the beautiful piece of needlework illustrated above are given in the article called "Arabian Embroidery."

leading to many girls who think of embracing gardening as a profession, and is the cause of much bitter disappointment to them.

ARABIAN EMBROIDERY.

Fancy work is becoming more and more of a pastime and a pleasure to women, urged towards a new season of popularity by the past direful weather.

A most charming piece of work that is very suitable for a present is the self-registering filing case, shown on this page, the embroidered front of which, despite its rich and ornate appearance, is very simply worked, only three or four different stitches, extracted from Arabian originals, being utilised.

The background is made of ivory-white Roman satin, and the design is worked in two-thread filo floss silk and gold. In working, the satin must be stretched very tightly in the frame, as otherwise, with so full a design, the material can easily become distorted. After the outline has been transferred to the satin it is worked with the usual Arabian embroidery stitch, namely, first long horizontal stitches, then vertical lines one quarter of an inch apart, which are held down by small alternating equidistant stitches at similar intervals.

The lower part of the centre figure and the outline are executed in gold thread, the Arabian stitch in dark cinnamon being used for the centre triangular figure, and the triangles on either side are worked in light cinnamon brown with the flowers in two shades of lemon.

To emphasise the richness of the colour scheme, the six square figures are worked in white and old gold ornamented with black line stitch.

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BRIDGE DAY BY DAY.

By ERNEST BERGHOLT.

PLAY OF THE THIRD COUPON.

WEEKLY COMPETITION 9.—COUPON C.

♥ A, K, 6.

♠ J, 7, 6, 2.

♦ 7, 2.

♣ K, 7, 6, 2.

Y

(Dummy)

Z

♥ J, 6, 4.

♠ K, 2.

♦ Q, J, 6.

♣ 10, 9, 8, 5, 3.

♥ 10, 9, 7.

♠ A, 9, 8, 5.

♦ A, Q, J.

♥ Q, 8, 5, 4.

♠ Q, 10, 8, 6.

♦ K, 10, 8, 5.

♣ 4.

Score: AB, 1 game and love; YZ, 1 game and love. Y deals and leaves it. Z declares Spades. B leads ♠ A. (On B's hand we should not double Z's declaration. There are some players who would; and we shall not necessarily rule the double to be incorrect.)

THE PLAY.

Trick.	A	Y	B	Z
1.	♠ 8	♠ 2	♠ A	♥ 6
2.	♠ Q	♠ A	♥ 10	♥ J
3.	♠ 4	♠ 8	♠ 6	♠ K
4.	♠ 1	♠ K	♠ A	♠ 3
5.	♠ 9	♠ 6	♠ 5	♠ 2
6.	♠ 10	♠ 7	♠ 8	♠ 10
7.	♥ 2	♥ 9	♥ J	♥ 8
8.	♥ 3	♥ 6	♥ Q	♥ 9
9.	♥ K	♥ 7	♥ 4	♥ J
10.	♥ 6	♥ K	♥ 7	♥ 4
11.	♠ Q	♠ J	♠ 6	♠ 10
12.	♠ 8	♠ 8	♠ 9	♠ 2
13.	♠ 10	♠ 7	♠ 9	♠ 5

Result: AB, 6 tricks; YZ, 7 tricks.

Score: AB, 0; YZ, 2.

COMMENTS.

Trick 3—B not having led clubs, Y can infer almost

certainly that he has the ace, and plays to make the king. B passes, as he does not desire the lead.

Trick 4—Y hopes to find ♠ A with A.

Trick 7—Y tries to drop the two adverse trumps together, but fails.

Trick 8—B cannot venture to lead from the second-best heart guarded, for fear that Y has both king and 8. If this is so, it's only chance of the odd trick is to find A with ♠ Q, J, and Y with ♠ 10, in which case Y will win a trick, provided B does not lead it. As the cards lie, however, AB do not win the odd trick by any play.

* * * Those who have played the hand as above are requested to send in their claims.

♥ ♥ ♥

Our attention is drawn to an erratum in the prize list of Wednesday last, where the name of Mr. Percy M. Castello was wrongly printed.

* * *

J. L. P. sends some interesting remarks on Mr. Ellwell's Tournament Hand in last Monday's issue, and asks for a decision on the following point: "The dealer led a small heart. Player on his left put down a small heart, which he almost immediately picked up again, saying: 'Oh, it's a diamond led!' and substituting one of that suit. What is the penalty?"

The dealer may either treat the heart as an exposed card (liable to be called), or may require the offending player to play his highest or his lowest diamond.

"Your interesting notes have stimulated me," writes G. C., "to take a greater interest in Bridge; but we are at a disadvantage for lack of authority and guidance. Could you name a sound and useful guide to the game—not so much a 'problem' book as a serviceable course of instruction?"

We have previously said that the game is so young that there is not as yet any universal consensus of opinion among the best players as to many points. Consequently the writers all contradict each other in a manner mightily confusing to learners. The clearest and soundest elementary course that we have seen is to be found in the articles appearing each Saturday in the "Evening News." These began on November 28 last. A systematic treatise on the game, by Ernest Bergholt, is appearing in weekly instalments in "Golf Illustrated." An admirable work for general reference is "Hellsport on Bridge" (F. de la Rue and Co., 5s. net), the fourth edition of which has just been issued, and has been sent us for review.

Replying to F. P., in our "Rules and Instructions" on February 15 we expressly announced that "suitable extra time would be allowed to those living out of Great Britain." We are pleased to get solvers from every part of Europe.

WHAT FRANCE, ITALY AND AMERICA THINK OF THE WAR.



Miss Chrysanthemum, calm and confident, draws her "gun."



JE-RU-SKI! But this is so sudden!

are aware that the Sahara was originally part of the ocean, and to properly develop the centre of Africa it should be part of the ocean again, and that is what I propose to do.

"You may well stare, sir, but it is a fact. The engineers under me have carefully studied the question, and a canal can be cut, starting a little below Cape Juby, and the water from the ocean conducted into the interior, which all lies below the sea-level. The whole place, which is now an arid waste, will be turned into a gigantic inland sea, opening possibilities of trade, such as the world has never known before, and taking to the heathen land the benefits of civilisation and Christianity."

"What is stopping the way, then, Colonel?" I inquired.

"Well, at the present moment, there are one or two hitches with your European Governments.

CHEERING NEWS OF CHEAPER MONEY.

A microscopic turn of mind might have discovered business in the stock markets on Saturday. Nothing else could. A good many members stayed away, and those who were present seemed inclined to discuss the possibilities of trouble developing in connection with the Continental house settlements. But the bankers in Lombard-street were again able to give the Stock Exchange cheering news of cheaper money.

Cheaper money did not make much difference to Consols. Speculators for the rise had to pay stiffer carry-over rates than were anticipated. This was perhaps not so much due to the increase in the speculative account for the rise as to the reduction in the account open for the fall. So far it was not good news for the Consol market.

Where the observer of the microscopic mind might have found good scope was in the Home Railway market. For our own part, we could see no signs of business.

Something of the same nature has to be said about

RIVAL OF JACQUES I.

American Scheme to Flood Out the Saharan Empire.

"Say, who is your Emperor? Anyway, when you next meet him say that he will be washed clean off the face of Africa. I have, sir, here," said Colonel W. T. Schroeder, tapping a large roll of paper, "the greatest scheme this world has ever seen."

I bowed politely.

"No ready-made Emperors will stand a chance with this. I have been working on this for several years, and when one or two temporary hitches are overcome, we are all ready to make a start."

"May I ask, Colonel, what the scheme is?"

"My scheme, sir, is to restore nature to her original conception. I do not know whether you



A FRENCH VIEW.

The Jap.—"I am brave."
"Doubtless, but in your place your father would have already committed suicide."



ITALY'S LITTLE SNEER.

The Englishman finds a Japanese screen very useful against a north wind.



"The Artful Dodger"—An American cartoonist's opinion of the cause of the trouble in the Far East.

Naturally, I have applied to them all to know if they have any objection, pointing out the advantages of the scheme from a commercial point of view. I have received two objections, which I hope to overcome. The first is from Italy. They strongly object on the score that the quality of water we shall want will seriously affect the Mediterranean, and perhaps leave some of their ports high and dry."

"But won't you draw from the Atlantic Ocean?" I inquired.

"At first it looks as if we should, but I am credibly informed that a strong current, sets round North-West Africa from the Mediterranean, and undoubtedly we should obtain it from the Mediterranean, but that may be overcome. The Government of France objects on the score of Humanity, and say that we should flood out a lot of already existing inhabitants; but, of course, they will be duly advised when the water is coming, and we shall find much better locations for them on the shores of the ocean."

"What about the English Government?" I asked.

"Ah, they are very cute, your Government; they have not replied to my communication at all. I guess they are only waiting until the scheme is in full swing, and then you can bet your last dollar that they will butt right in. Now, sir, you know the greatest scheme on earth. I am not over here for any money; that will be all found in the States. Guess, after your war, you have not got any dollars over here to spare."

"May I ask what the capital is?"
"Two hundred and fifty million dollars, or £50,000,000 in your money, with 100,000,000 dollars, or £20,000,000, paid up—that is the capital I am advised by my engineers will be required for this great humanitarian proposition."

"BOBS," MERCHANT VENTURER.

April 15 has been fixed for the visit of Lord Roberts and the Duke of Beaufort to Bristol, on the occasion of their election as honorary members of the Bristol Society of Merchant Venturers.

"Bobs" spent many of his earlier days at Clifton, where his parents resided for some time.

Reports from Tokio announce that Russian soldiers have seized the premises of the American Mining Company at Un-san, north of Seoul.

American Rails. New York manipulators seem a little less confident, for they all have an eye on the Continent, and wonder whether there are to be Continental sales. They made the market fairly firm to start with, but, left to itself, it soon looked limp.

Canadian Rails steadied a little after their recent depression, but dealers were still gloomily contemplating the prospects of a decline in the monthly statement, due to-day, of £25,000 to £30,000, and even this was regarded as taking a lenient view.

The Rosario Company issued a cablegram showing that the strike on the railway had assumed big proportions. There is no doubt that many thousands of men are out. So far, other Argentine railways are unaffected. The market was very weak at first, but recovered when it was found that sellers were not very eager.

Silver rose again, for the East was buying, but it had little effect upon what are called the silver securities, Mexican Railways and the rest.

Foreign stocks started as though they meant business. Russians, Japanese, Spanish, and Turks—they were all put higher. But that did not last very long. Towards the finish Paris seemed gloomily again.

It was some evidence of French selling which stopped a rise in Kafir. But the market had also another adverse feature in a new issue of Zambesia Exploration shares. It is said that the Chartered issue was a success after all. Other mining sections presented features of no special influence.

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THE 'SPURS' DECISION.

They Will Play Sheffield Wednesday at Tottenham.

On Saturday morning the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* exclusively announced that the directors of the Tottenham Hotspur Club were seriously considering the advisability of playing next Saturday's F.A. Cup-tie with Sheffield Wednesday on a ground other than their own. The matter was fully debated at a meeting held on Saturday evening, and no doubt it was with mixed feelings that the football public read the announcement in yesterday's "Weekly Dispatch" that it had been finally decided to bring off the game at Tottenham.

We believe the directors of the Hotspur Club were quite willing to take the match to a more commodious arena, provided suitable terms and the consent of their opponents could be obtained. On the other hand, they were not neglectful of any claims of their regular patrons, and it was only after a period of very careful and anxious deliberation that they made up their minds not to desert the old pitch.

A PIOUS HOPE.

It is to be hoped, for the sake of the future welfare of warblers, without the slightest shadow of a doubt, the national athletic sport and pastime par excellence, that the spectacle at Tottenham next Saturday, be their numbers what they may, will behave themselves. Our experience of football crowds is that they are invariably good-natured. There are circumstances, however, under which they cannot restrain themselves, and these circumstances were extremely prevalent at the match with Aston Villa.

At the same time, one cannot hold the Hotspur directors entirely blameless. It ought to have occurred to them that London football has secured thousands of new patrons since last season, and that there was almost certain to be an attendance at the game with the Villa greatly in excess of the holding capacity of the ground. Shutting the gates when the place is full may seem a wise precaution, but it must not be forgotten that there is much danger from overcrowding in the short roadway which leads to the turnstiles.

As a matter of fact, the 'Spurs' present ground is altogether too small for a game of very great importance. The 'Spurs' directors are doubtless well aware of the fact. What one would like to learn is that they intend to act upon the knowledge by securing for themselves a home worthy of their importance as a club, and suited in every way to the needs of the vast community of football enthusiasts which surrounds them.

Those who visit Tottenham next Saturday will find astonishingly elaborate arrangements made for their comfort, as well as for their repression should they feel inclined to kick up their heels. The strains of human beings as they ebb and flow will be regulated and controlled by a very sufficient, as well as a very efficient, force of police.

A Word of Warning.

Any unauthorised person who may feel desirous of entering the field of play will first of all have to surmount a five-feet high iron fence. After that he will be called upon to circumvent a line of brawny gentlemen in blue.

Entrance to the enclosures and stands will only be obtained by ticket, and the gates will be closed as soon as the ground is full. The Hotspur directors are just the men to tackle and solve a problem such as this, and we have not the slightest doubt, but that they, personally, will come through next Saturday's ordeal triumphantly whatever their players may do in the field.

The match has already been described—and not without reason—as 'the final before the final.' The game will be the third round of a battle royal between the Southern League and the Football League. Should the 'Spurs' emerge victorious they will be the warmest favourites to win the Cup outright, that the competition has ever known, and should fate once more bring them and Sheffield United together at the Crystal Palace in April it requires no gift of prophecy to be able to foretell that even the holding capacity of that vast amphitheatre will be taxed to the very utmost.

After to-day's match with Plymouth Argyle the 'Spurs' players will return to their old quarters at Leigh-on-Sea, there to abide until Saturday morning. The Sheffield men will reach a spot about twenty miles from the metropolis on Friday evening, reaching Tottenham in good time on Saturday.

Down South.

The Southern League Competition is providing a very interesting struggle. The two leaders—Southampton and Bristol Rovers—had to be content with a point each on Saturday as the result of drawn games.

Luton, who are third, with three matches in hand, gained a victory over Brighton and Hove Albion, a team which is guilty of many vagaries of form. Fulham, West Ham, and Millwall were also on the winning side, but none of these, save, perhaps, Millwall, has even an outside chance of the championship.

The 'Spurs' showed marvellous cleverness in their Western League game with Portsmouth, but as they were obviously holding themselves well in hand no one was surprised when the men from Hampshire made a draw of it.

It is pleasant to learn that Woodward, the Tottenham centre-forward, has quite recovered his best form, and that he is almost certain to play against Ireland, unless Brown, of Sheffield, does something wonderful this afternoon.

That Ireland's Rugby players are not a very strong set this year is proved by the ease with which Scotland won at Dublin on Saturday. From but a great team the winners are themselves anything more find a resting-place in the south this season.

The list of matches for this afternoon is rather a strong one for a week day. The principal event

is, of course, the International between England and Wales, at Wrexham. The Englishmen, it is pleasing to note, will play as selected; but the Welsh authorities will be compelled to find substitutes for several men not available or injured. On the form shown in the North and South trial game England should win easily.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

ASSOCIATION.
At Wrexham: Wales v. England.
F.A. CUP—Replayed Tie.
At Birmingham: Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Derby County.
WESTERN LEAGUE.
At Kensal Rise: Queen's Park Rangers v. Brentford.
At Tottenham: Tottenham Hotspur v. Plymouth Argyle.
LEAGUE II.
At Plumstead: Woolwich Arsenal v. Burnley.
LONDON LEAGUE—Premier Division.
At Millwall: Millwall v. West Ham United.
BASS CHARITY CUP.
At Wellingborough: Wellingborough v. Walsall.

FOOTBALL RESULTS IN BRIEF.

ASSOCIATION.
LEAGUE I.
Aston Villa (h), 6; Sheffield Wednesday, 1.
Bury (h), 2; Derby County, 2.
Liverpool (h), 2; Manchester City, 2.
Middlesbrough (h), 1; Stoke County, 0.
Everton, 4; Notts Forest (h), 0.
Sheffield Wednesday (h), 3; Small Heath, 2.
Sunderland (h), 2; West Ham United, 1.
Wolverhampton Wanderers (h), 3; Newcastle United, 2.
LEAGUE II.
Woolwich Arsenal (h), 3; Barnsley, 0.
Burnley, 2; Burton United (h), 1.
Glossop (h), 5; Stockport County, 1.
Bradford City (h), 3; Lincoln City, 1.
Barnham Port Vale (h), 6; Leicester Fosse, 2.
Burton Albion (h), 3; Grimsby Town, 0.
Gillingham Trinity (h), 2; Preston North End, 0.
Bristol City (h), 2; Bolton Wanderers, 0.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE.
New Brompton (h), 1; Bristol Rovers, 1.
Leam (h), 3; Brighton and Hove Albion, 0.
Southampton (h), 1; Reading, 1.
Swindon (h), 1; Brentford, 0.
Fulham (h), 1; Plymouth Argyle, 0.
West Ham (h), 2; Northampton, 0.
Millwall (h), 4; Queen's Park Rangers, 0.
Division II.
Southampton Res. 3; Chelsea (h), 1.
Southall Res. (h), 3; Fulham Res., 0.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE.
Queen's Park, 0; St. Mirren, 0.
Glasgow Rangers, 2; Greenock Morton, 2.
Heart of Midlothian, 5; Airdrieonians, 0.
Hibernian, 2; Partick Thistle, 2.
SCOTTISH CUP (Third Round).
Third Lanark, 3; Kilmarnock, 0.
Dundee, 0; Celtic, 0.
WESTERN LEAGUE.
Tottenham Hotspur (h), 1; Portsmouth, 1.
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE MATCH.
Scotland (h), 3; Ireland, 1.
LONDON LEAGUE (Division I).
Queen's Park Rangers Res. (h), 0; Millwall Res., 0.
Brentford Reserves (h), 2; Willesden Town, 0.
Leyton (h), 4; Woolwich Arsenal Reserves, 4.
Division II.
Catford Reserves, 7; G.W. Railway, 1.
Woolwich Polytechnic, 1; Boleyn Castle, 0.
Child's Hill Imperial, 3; Walthamstow Town, 1.
Kington, 1; Hauxley, 2.
Finchley, 10; Hendon, 1.
AMATEUR CUP (Second Round, Postponed Tie).
Whitehead's (Weymouth), 0; West Hampstead, 2.
Third Round.
Ealing, 0; Norwich City, 0.
Sheffield, 7; Darlington St. Augustine's, 0.
Bishop Auckland, 4; Stockton, 1.
SOUTHEASTERN LEAGUE.
Watford (h), 1; Tottenham Hotspur Reserves, 0.
Aylesbury United (h), 4; New Brompton Reserves, 3.
Hitchin Town, 1; War Office, 1-0.
SOUTHERN SUBURBAN LEAGUE.
Bromley, 2; West Norwood, 1.
LONDON JUNIOR CUP—(Final).
Aspin Rovers, 1; Clapham, 0. At the Spotted Dog.
KENT LEAGUE.
Dover, 3; Maidstone, 0.
Sheppey United, 1; Sittingbourne, 1.
Tunbridge Wells, 6; Folkestone, 1.
SURREY SENIOR CUP—(Semi-Final).
Guards Depot, 2; Reigate, 1.
OTHER MATCHES.
Corinthians (h), 4; Stoke, 0.
Chesham, 2; Ashford, 1.
Woodford, 1; St. Albans, 0; Bush, 0.
Casuals, 3; Uxbridge, 0.
Marlow, 2; Old Citizens, 1.
Noremes, 1; Chesham, 1.
Berkings, 3; Horsham, 0.
Woking, 3; Addlestone, 0.

RUGBY.

Scotland, 19 pts; Ireland (h), 3.
London Scottish, 10 pts; London Irish, 3.
Old Leysians, 25 pts; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5.
Oxford University (h), 26 pts; Northern University, 0.
Cambridge University, 10 pts; Blackheath, 3.
Devonport Albion, 8 pts; London Welsh, 0.
Bedford (h), 6 pts; Northampton, 5.
Richmond (h), 0; Leicester, 0.
Lennon, 6 pts; R.I.C.O., 0.
Guy's Hospital, 26 pts; Marlborough Nomads, 3.
Civil Servants, 13 pts; London Devonians, 0.
Kington, 10 pts; Hailbury, 3.

"THE MONKEY AND THE MAID."

Saturday Night's New Song, and Gossip From the Theatres.

That briskest and brightest of musical comedies, "The Earl and the Girl," at the Adelphi, was made the merrier with a new monkey-song on Saturday, sung by Miss Agnes Fraser, with a row of nice girls behind her, all dressed up in monkey-tails—that is to say, in a costume of brown plush that would have been not so very different from the "electric seal" and dyed rabbit-skins and other things wherewith their sisters outside the theatre are ordinarily clothed, if it had not been for just the necessary suggestion of the bloomer.

Anyhow, the whole was really pretty—more sentimental than otherwise—and the only grotesque thing about it was the quaint little dance of the monkeys, who rolled about the floor in unison.

The monkey-song, which is called "In Zanzibar," takes, it is understood, the place of a patriotic ballad upon the theme of "Edward, England's King," which the Lord Chamberlain considered it inadvisable to introduce. Whether that be so or not, the spirit of patriotism is as strong in "The Earl and the Girl" as it is anywhere, and perhaps it is best that, for musical comedies in general, the loyal toasts should be taken as drunk.

Both the real earl and the false earl and the right one and the wrong one are, we might add, all equally aware of current events just now. Perhaps the most popular little hit of the evening was Mr. Passmore's addition to his song, "I Think I

Should be Satisfied with Life." The verse begins: "If Japan—" The rest is silence, during which Mr. Passmore says nothing, but, to judge from his gestures, thinks a lot.

When "Captain Dieppe" finishes its run at the Duke of York's Theatre that charming comedy "His Excellency the Governor," will be revived. Mr. Marsh Allen (so long a wanderer and just returned from America) will make his London reappearance in the part created by Mr. Paul Arthur. Mr. H. D. Irving, Mr. Dion Boucicault, and Miss Irene Vanbrugh will also be found in the cast.

Mr. John Hare is about to have a holiday, and is retiring for a short time from the cast of "Little Mary." During his absence his part will be played by Mr. A. E. George, who will migrate from the Imperial to Wyndham's Theatre for this engagement.

"A Man of Honour" will be continued at the Avenue at any rate till the French season commences, when it may be moved to Terry's Theatre. The booking is good and the receipts going up nightly, hence Miss Wylford's decision to prolong the run beyond the fortnight for which the play was originally put on.

Apropos of Terry's Theatre, rumours are about that Miss Kitty Loftus may make her reappearance here when "Love in a Cottage" terminates. Mr. Edward Terry has, however, announced his intention of appearing again in his own theatre at Easter.

has given many brilliant entertainments, both at Princes-gardens and in the country.

Society is nothing if not philanthropic nowadays, and since the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war we have been expecting something to be done. Rumour has it that some very great ladies are organising an absolutely novel entertainment, the proceeds of which, on account of England's neutrality, are to be equally divided between the sufferers of both nations.

Almost as ardent a golfer as Mr. Balfour is Lord Shand, who is so seriously ill, and a distinction has been conferred on him that the Premier would be proud to possess.

On a certain well-known golf links a very stiff bunker is named after Lord Shand, who is but an indifferent "driver," because he is so often to be seen in it.

THE SOCIAL PEEP-SHOW.

The King's Levee to-day is to be held—with a return to old precedent, waived last year—in St. James's Palace, which has lately been undergoing renovation, and, more important still, re-lighting, under the supervision of Sir Schomberg McDonnell. The Grinting Gibbons carving in the great Levee room ought to look magnificent under the blaze of the newly-installed electric light, the fault of the apartments in the old palace having always been insufficiency of illumination. Arrangements have been made for the Diplomatic Corps to enter by the Ambassadors' Gate, as usual, and the rest of the public by the entrance facing Marlborough House.

The Dublin season continues merrily. To-night Lord and Lady Ashbourne are giving a ball at their beautiful old house in Merion-square. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are expected to be present, also the party from the castle, and it will be an exceptionally smart function, even for Dublin. Lord and Lady Ashbourne are very popular in Ireland, to whose interests they are devoted: Their family have been brought up to speak the Irish tongue, and Mr. William Gibson, Lord Ashbourne's eldest son and heir, has often appeared at local assemblies wearing the national costume, which is much like the Scottish kilt.

Lord Rosebery is presiding over the dinner of the Liberal League, which takes place at the Hotel Cecil to-night, and will be supported by Mr. Asquith, Sir H. Fowler, and Sir Edward Grey. The recent stir in the political world has communicated itself even to these formal functions, and a representative gathering of the party is expected.

It is with deep regret we learn that Lord Morley, who is at present staying in Princes-gardens, is seriously indisposed. His suffering proceeds from an internal complaint, which does not, however, confine him entirely to his room, and he is able to take short drives when the weather is fine enough. Lord Morley has held many important offices of State in his time. He was born soon after the marriage of the late Queen Victoria, and happened to be almost the first of many hundreds of sons of noble families who received the name of Albert after the Prince Consort. Lady Morley is an attractive woman, celebrated as a hostess, and

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